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90

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INVINCIBLE™



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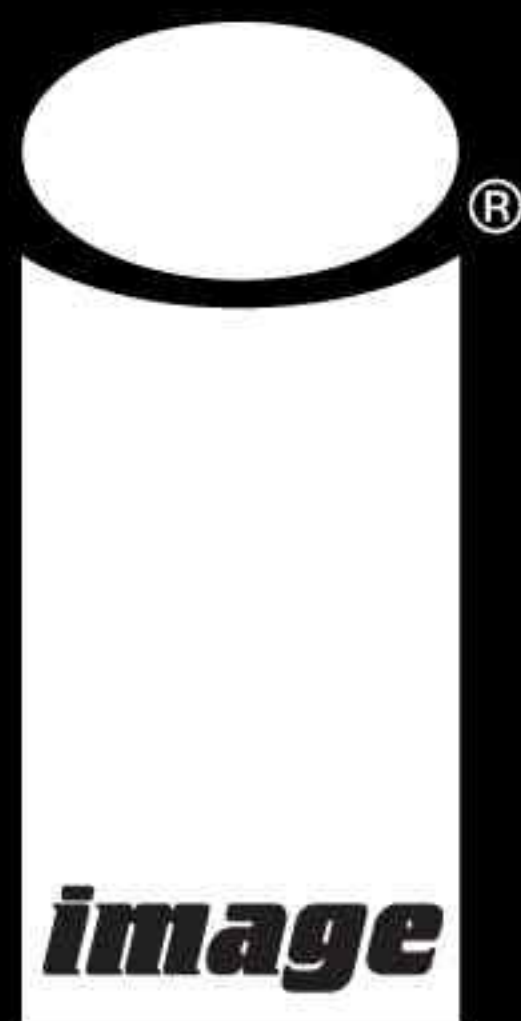


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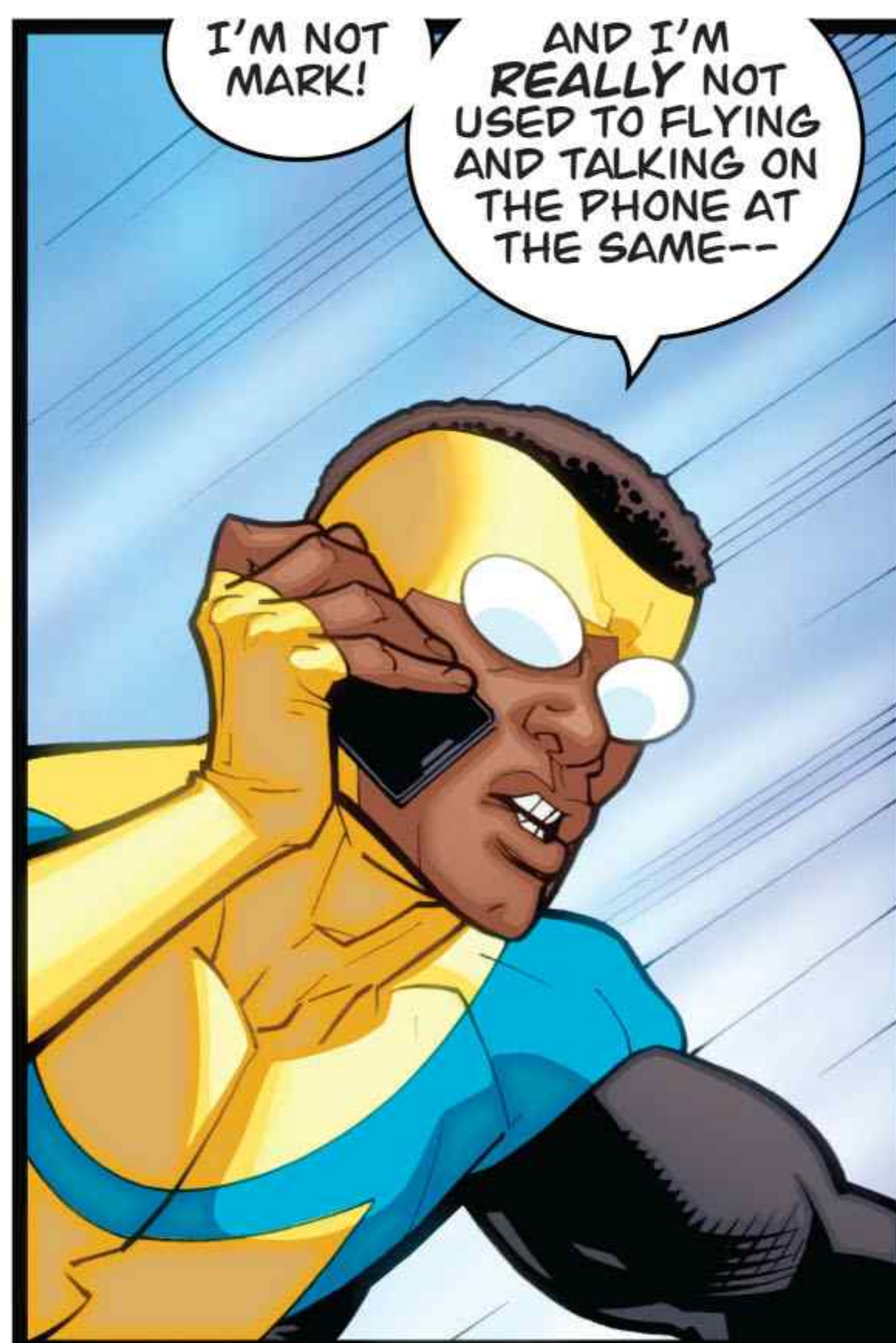
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THE LAST REMAINING
VILTRUMITE WARSHIP,
STATIONED ON THE MOON.



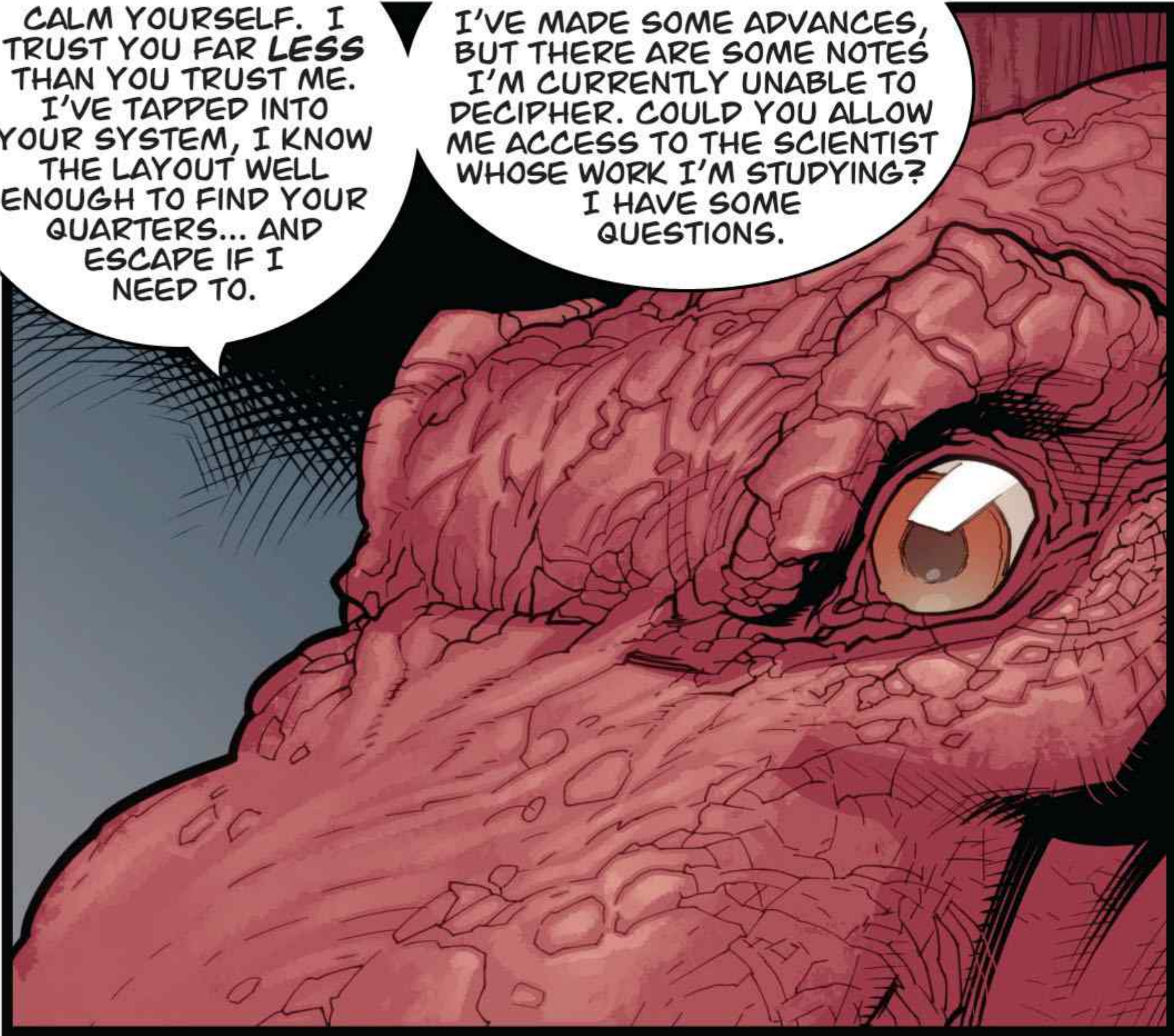
EXCUSE
ME.



HOW HAVE
YOU GAINED
ACCESS TO
MY--?!

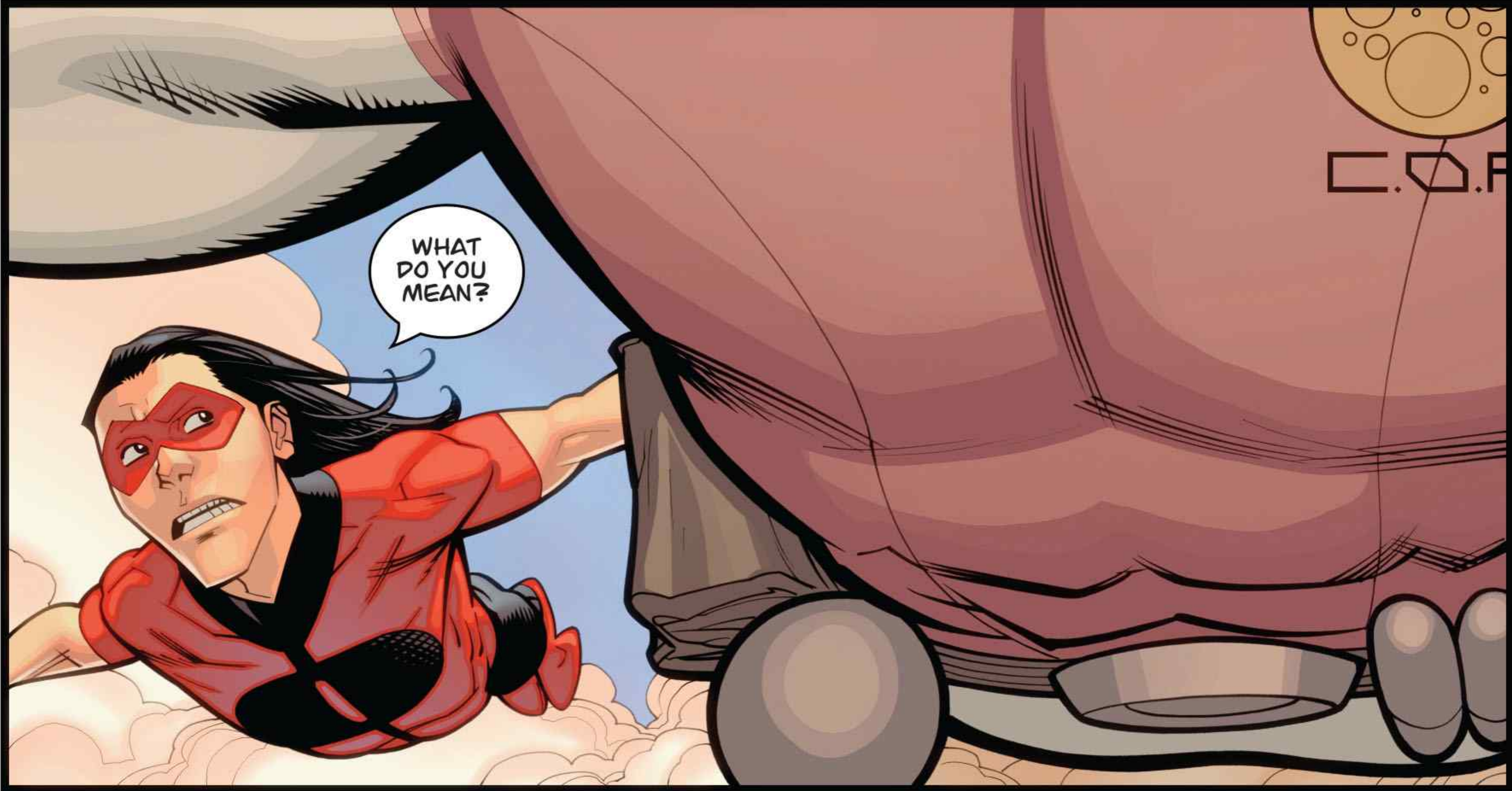
CALM YOURSELF. I
TRUST YOU FAR LESS
THAN YOU TRUST ME.
I'VE TAPPED INTO
YOUR SYSTEM, I KNOW
THE LAYOUT WELL
ENOUGH TO FIND YOUR
QUARTERS... AND
ESCAPE IF I
NEED TO.

I'VE MADE SOME ADVANCES,
BUT THERE ARE SOME NOTES
I'M CURRENTLY UNABLE TO
DECIPHER. COULD YOU ALLOW
ME ACCESS TO THE SCIENTIST
WHOSE WORK I'M STUDYING?
I HAVE SOME
QUESTIONS.



NO, I
CANNOT.
HE'S...

...UNAVAILABLE.





WE WERE READY TO KILL EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD ON THIS PLANET-- AND IF THRAGG HADN'T REVEALED HIMSELF WHEN HE DID... WE WOULD HAVE **DONE IT**--AND IT WOULDN'T HAVE WORKED.

WE WOULDN'T HAVE ACCOMPLISHED A THING... THE VILTRUMITES WOULD STILL BE OUT THERE.

YOU DON'T KNOW THAT. THE VIRUS COULD HAVE KILLED THEM ALL.

HOW CAN YOU CARE FOR THESE PEOPLE LESS THAN I DO? I'VE SPENT NO TIME HERE.



I WAS BROUGHT HERE WHEN I WAS VERY YOUNG--BUT I HAVE FULL RECOLLECTION OF EVERY MOMENT OF MY LIFE.

MY PEOPLE, THE THRAXANS, DO NOT FORM SIMILAR ATTACHMENTS AS THE PEOPLE OF EARTH. THRAXAN LIFESPANS ARE VERY SHORT, DEATH IS A PART OF LIFE... NOT A HORRIBLE OCCURRENCE.

I HAVE GROWN ATTACHED TO MY FAMILY AND SOME PEOPLE I'VE KNOWN... BUT TO ME... LIFE IS NOT SUCH A SPECIAL THING.

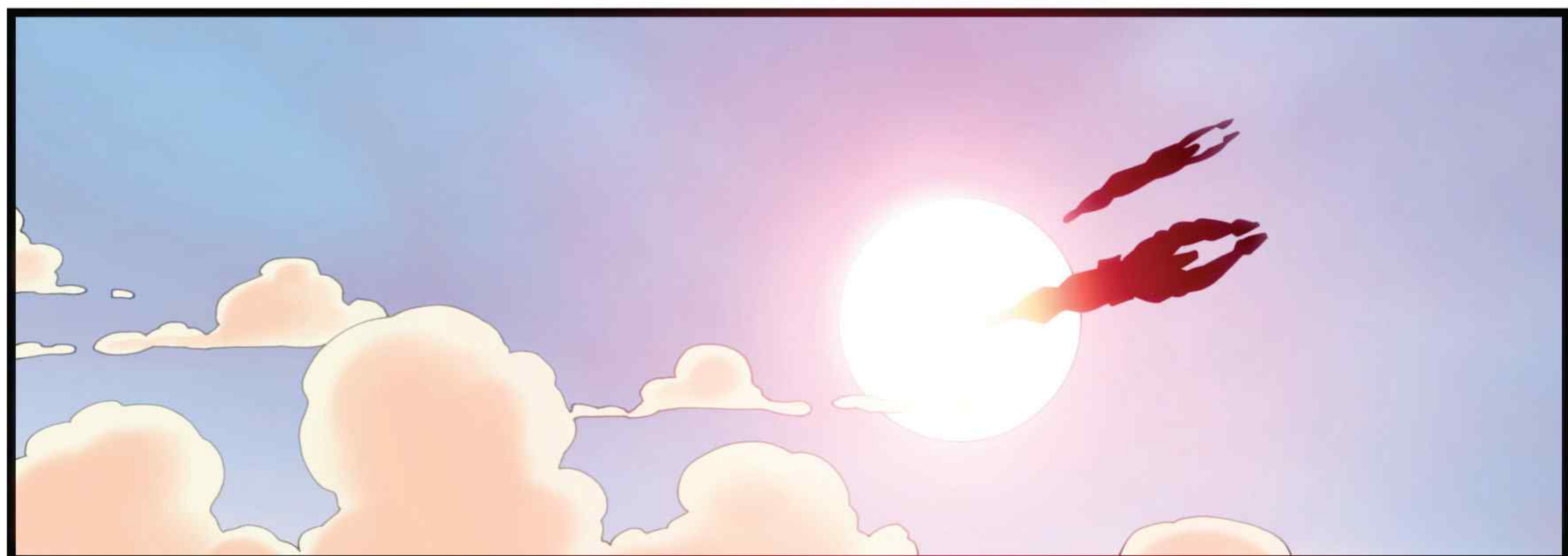


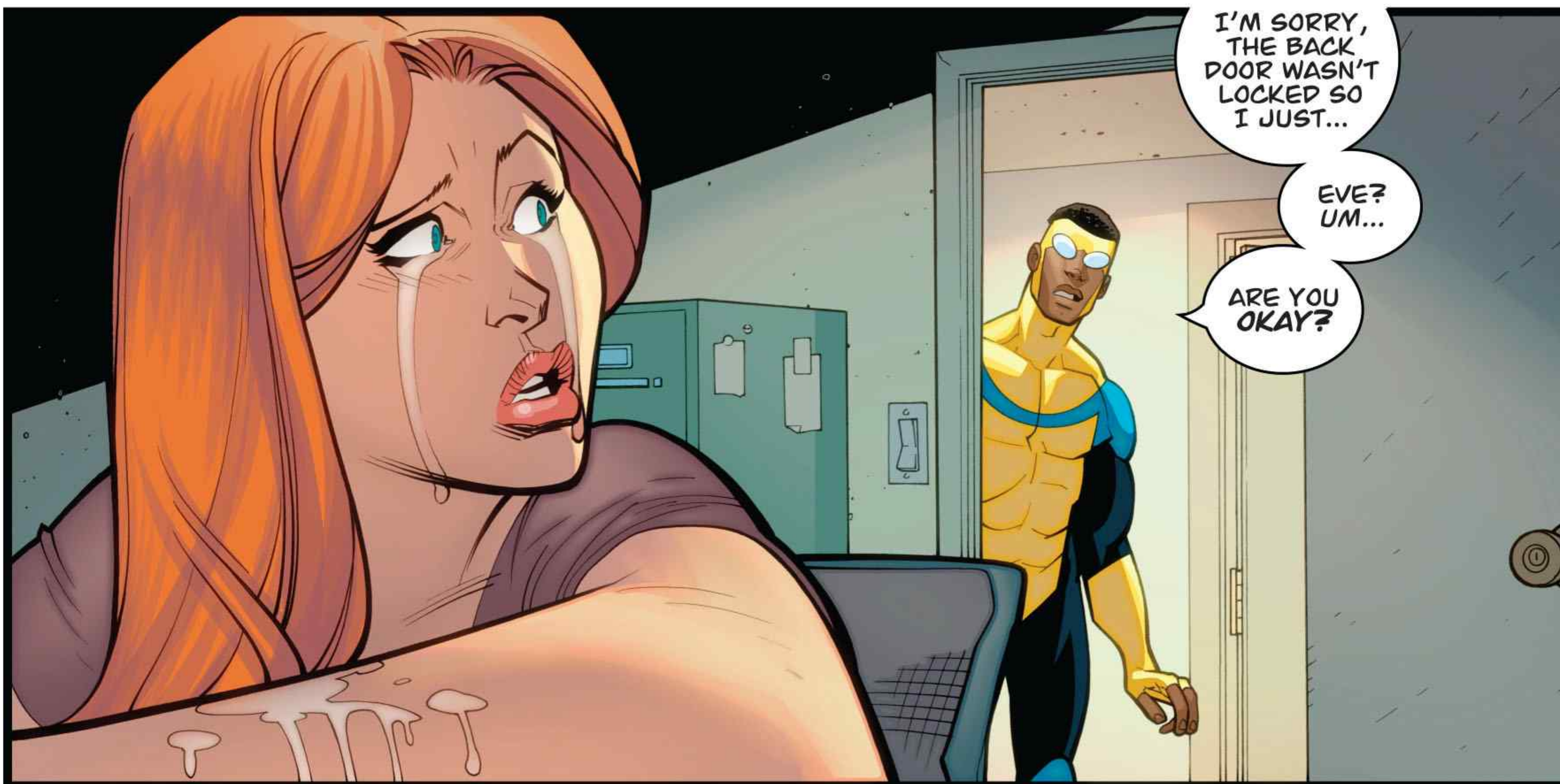
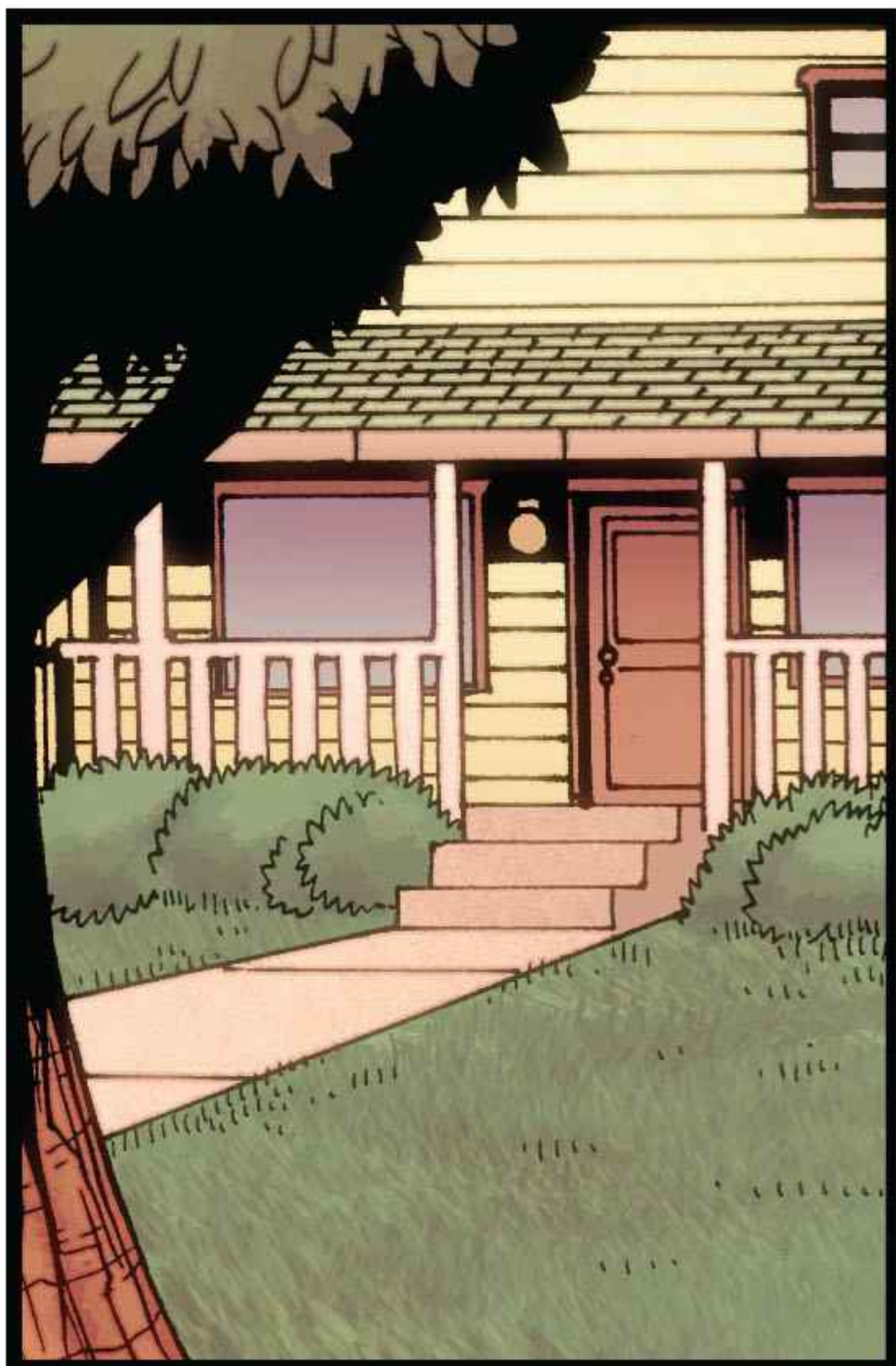
INTERESTING... ODD, MAYBE UNSETTLING BUT... INTERESTING.

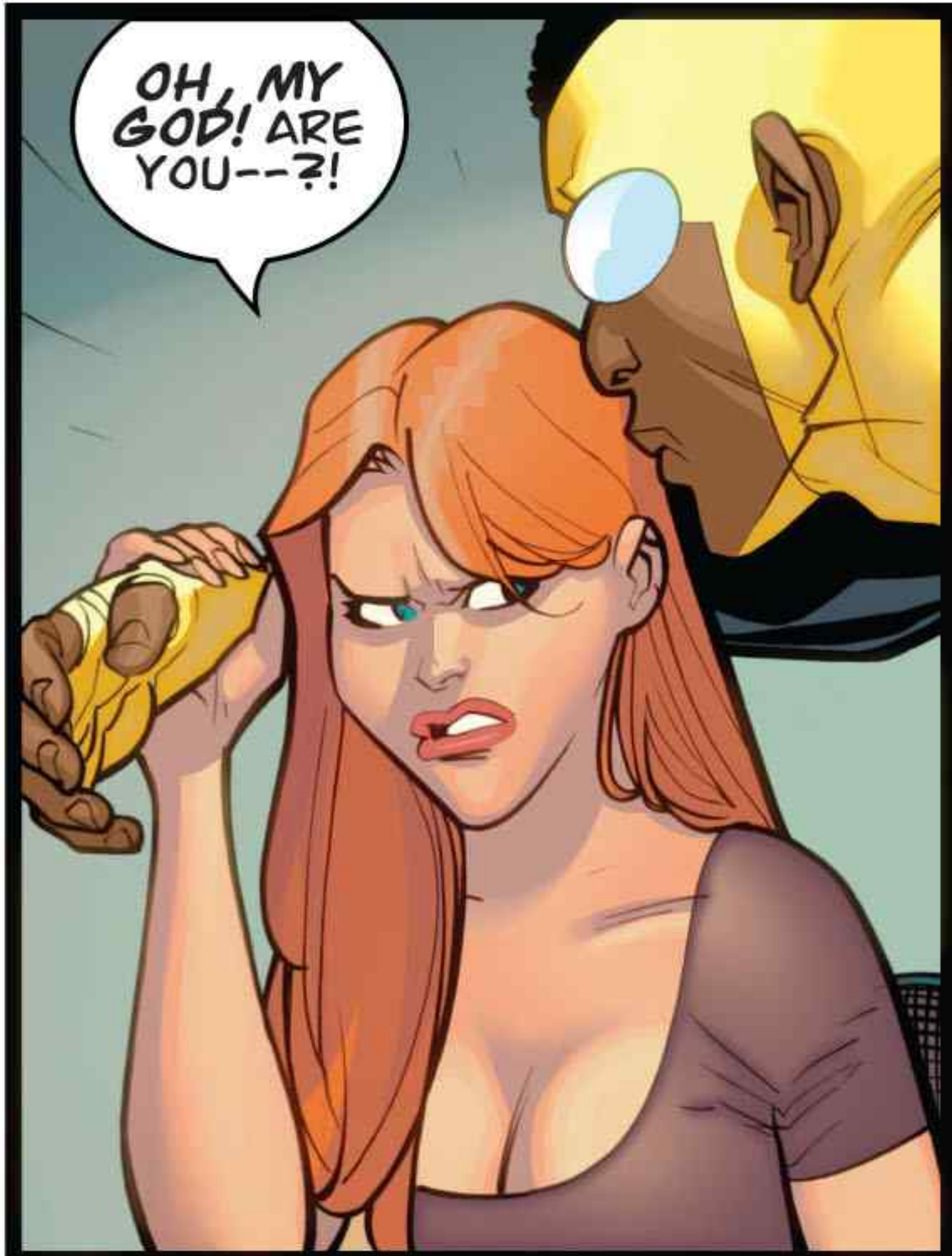
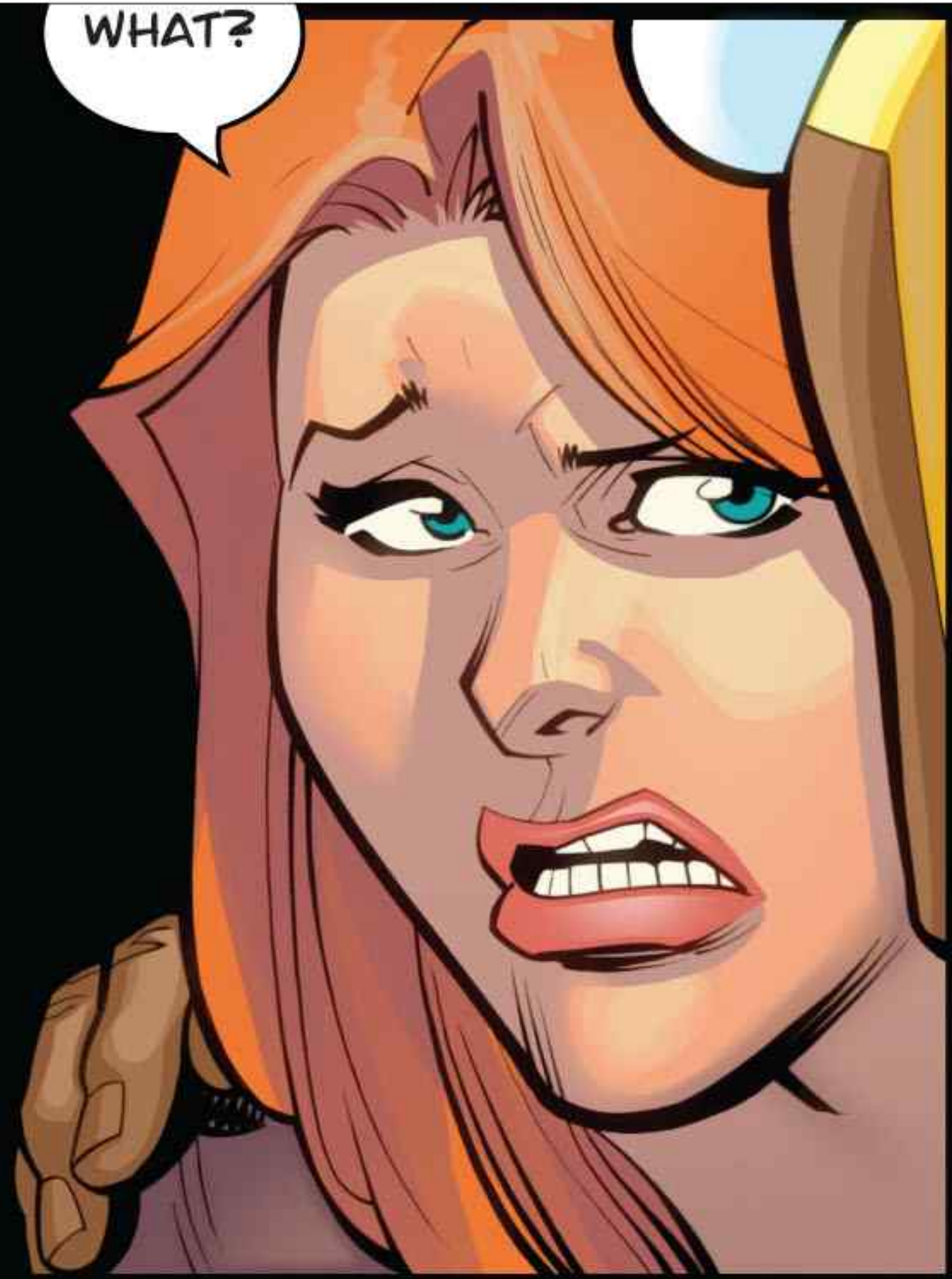
DO YOU WANT TO GO VISIT TECH JACKET?

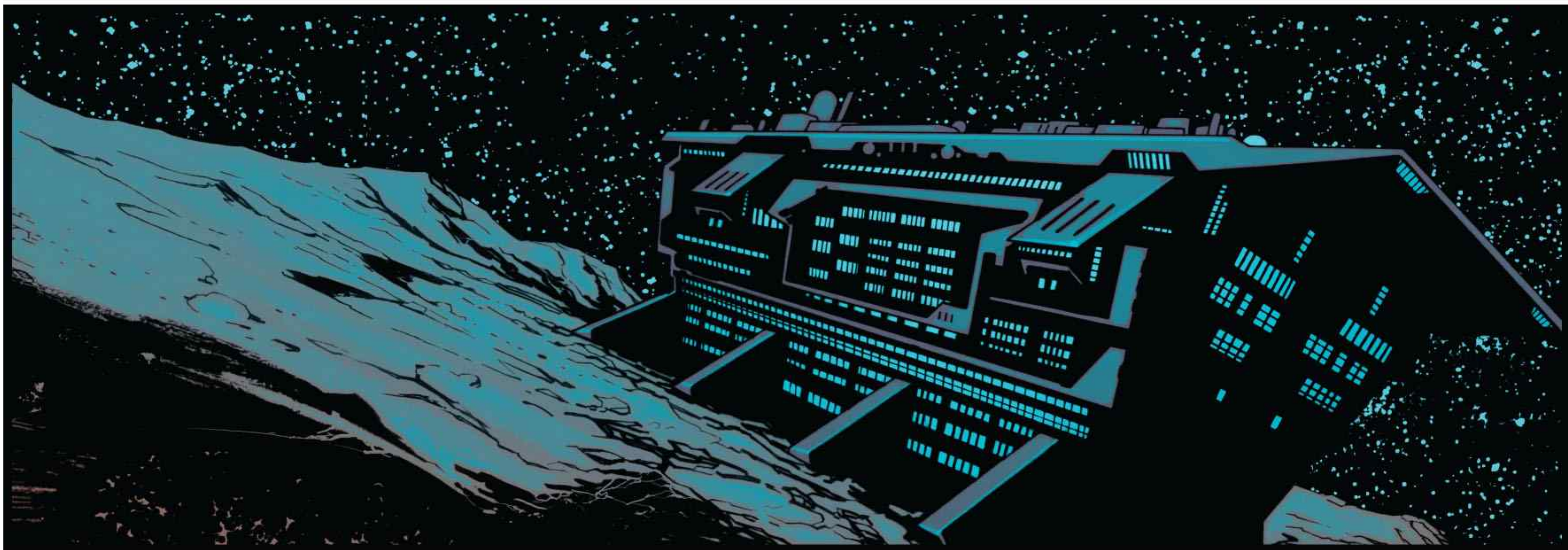


SURE.









I'M TOLD THAT THE PERIOD OF TIME WHERE YOU CAN PASS ON THE SCOURGE VIRUS TO OTHERS... HAS PASSED.

ALL THIS TIME WE'VE BEEN STUDYING YOU, THE VIRUS, YOUR DNA... ALL THIS HARD WORK HAS PROVEN UNNECESSARY. YOU'RE GOING TO **SURVIVE**.

IT IS RARE FOR ONE AS YOUNG AS YOU TO BE ABLE TO FEND OFF THE SCOURGE VIRUS NATURALLY... THIS IS SOMETHING THAT HAS STUMPED MY SCIENTISTS...

...BUT I KNOW WHY.

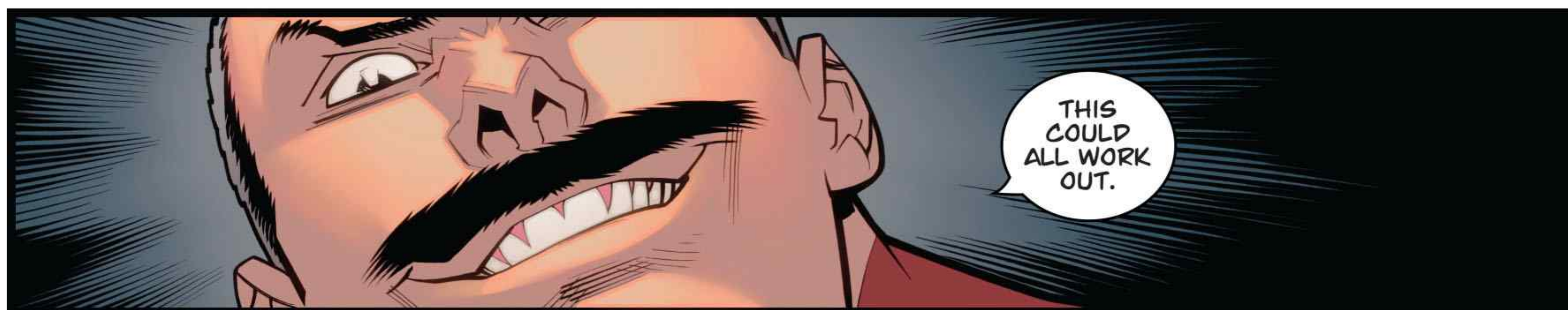
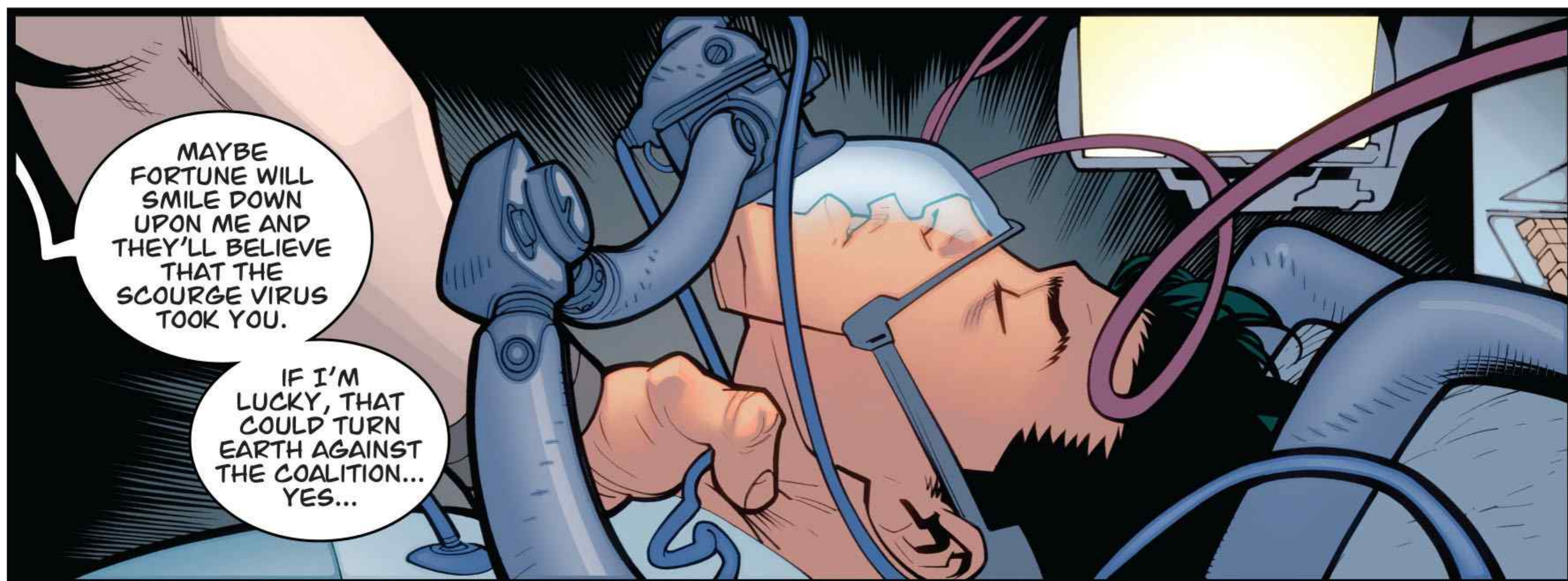
OF COURSE YOU WILL SURVIVE THIS VIRUS... FAILING TO DO SO WOULD BETRAY YOUR BLOODLINE.

FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS I HAVE ACTED AS GRAND REGENT... CHARGED WITH THE TASK OF LOCATING THE LOST SON OF ARGALL, PLACING HIM ON THE THRONE OF VILTRUM...

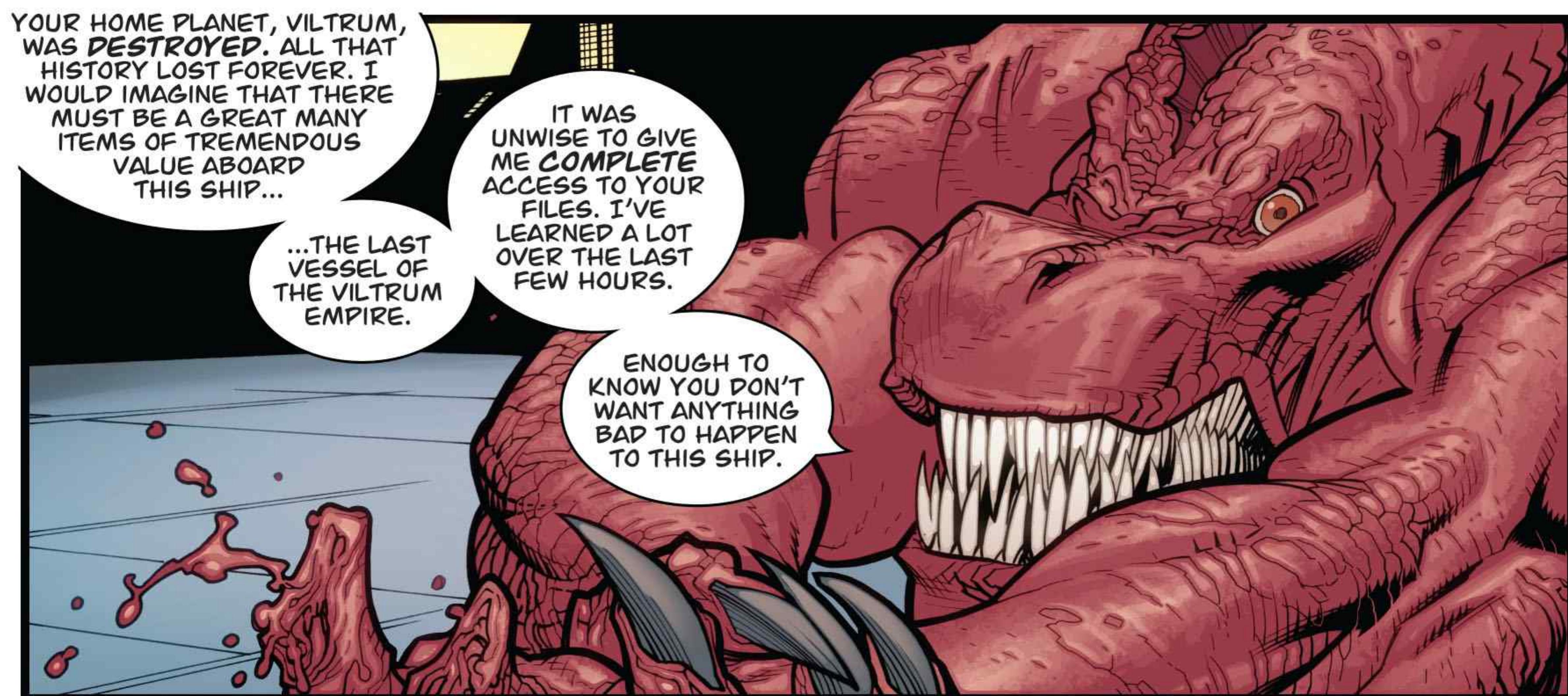
YOUR FATHER... YOU... **NO.**

I WILL NOT YIELD MY POSITION TO **TRAITORS**.

IF I HAVE TO FORFEIT OUR TIME HERE ON EARTH... SO BE IT.





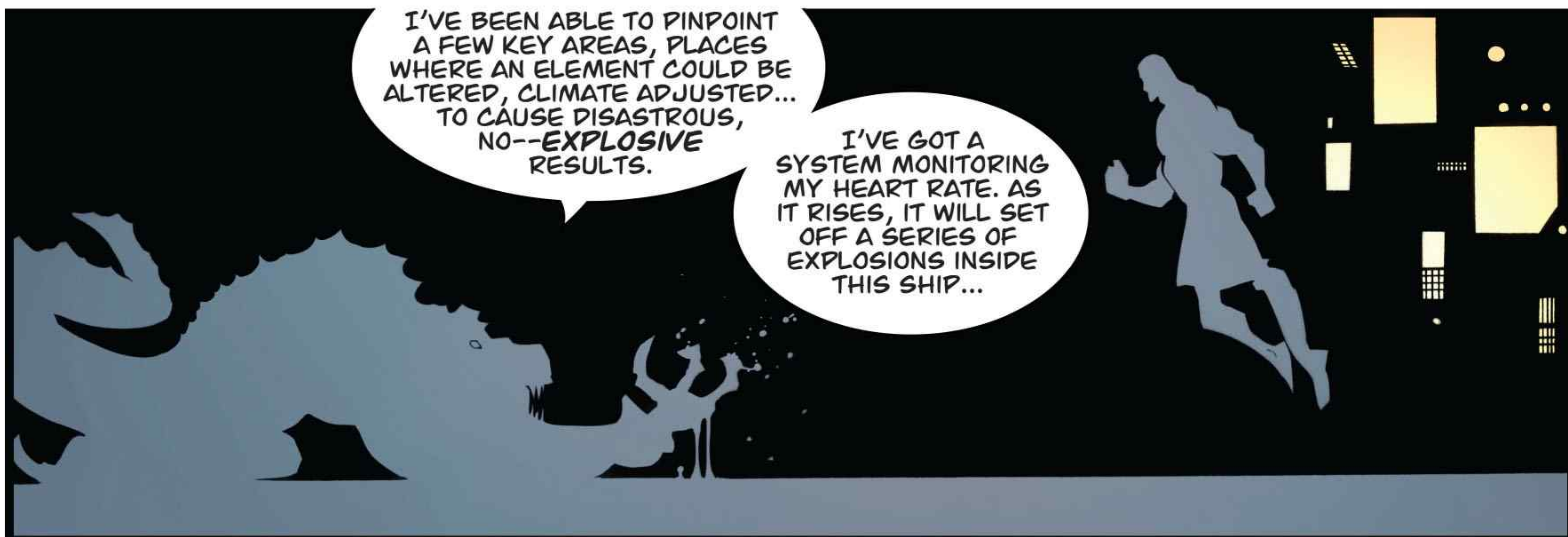


YOUR HOME PLANET, VILTRUM, WAS **DESTROYED**. ALL THAT HISTORY LOST FOREVER. I WOULD IMAGINE THAT THERE MUST BE A GREAT MANY ITEMS OF TREMENDOUS VALUE ABOARD THIS SHIP...

...THE LAST VESSEL OF THE VILTRUM EMPIRE.

IT WAS UNWISE TO GIVE ME **COMPLETE** ACCESS TO YOUR FILES. I'VE LEARNED A LOT OVER THE LAST FEW HOURS.

ENOUGH TO KNOW YOU DON'T WANT ANYTHING BAD TO HAPPEN TO THIS SHIP.

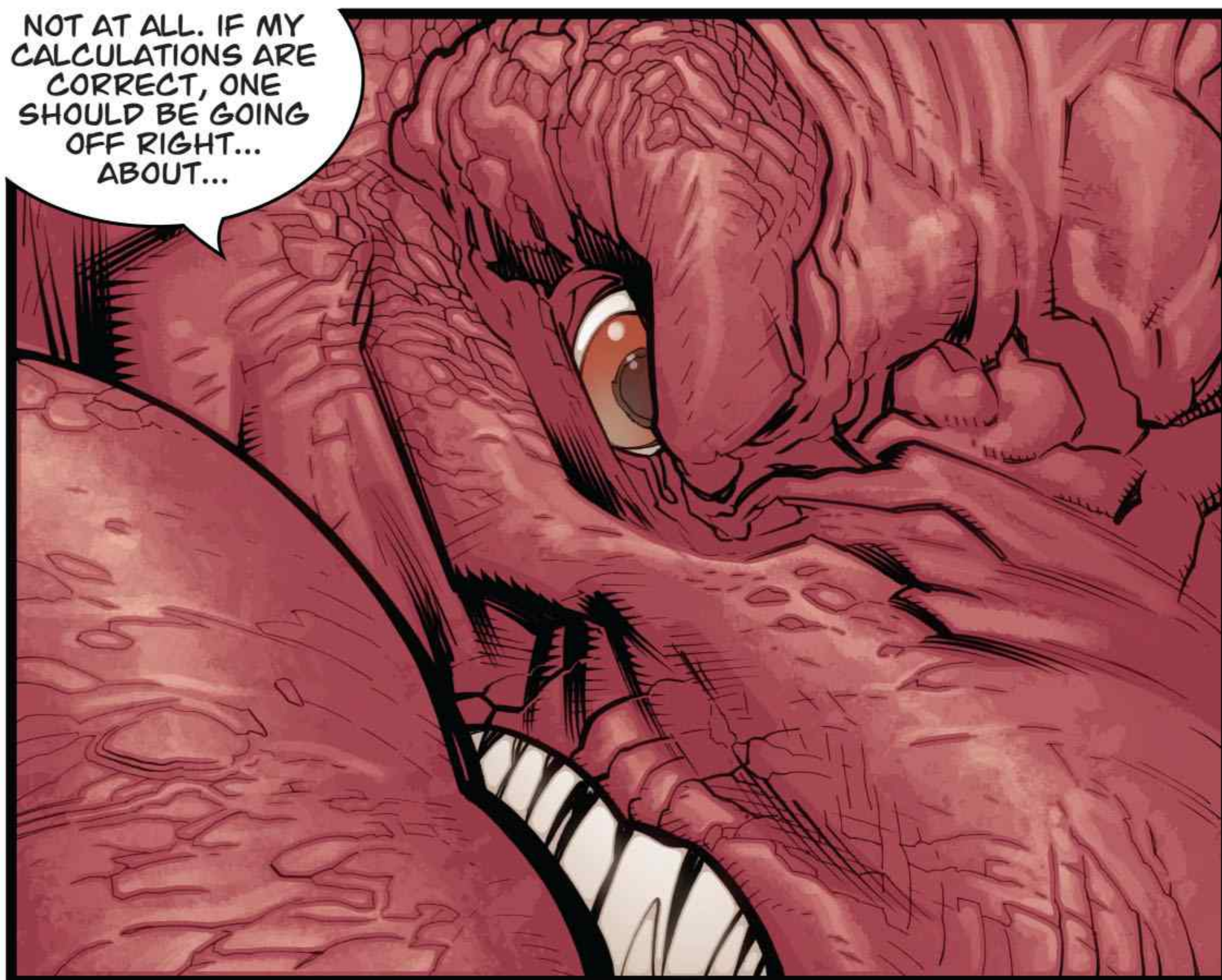


I'VE BEEN ABLE TO PINPOINT A FEW KEY AREAS, PLACES WHERE AN ELEMENT COULD BE ALTERED, CLIMATE ADJUSTED... TO CAUSE DISASTROUS, NO--**EXPLOSIVE** RESULTS.

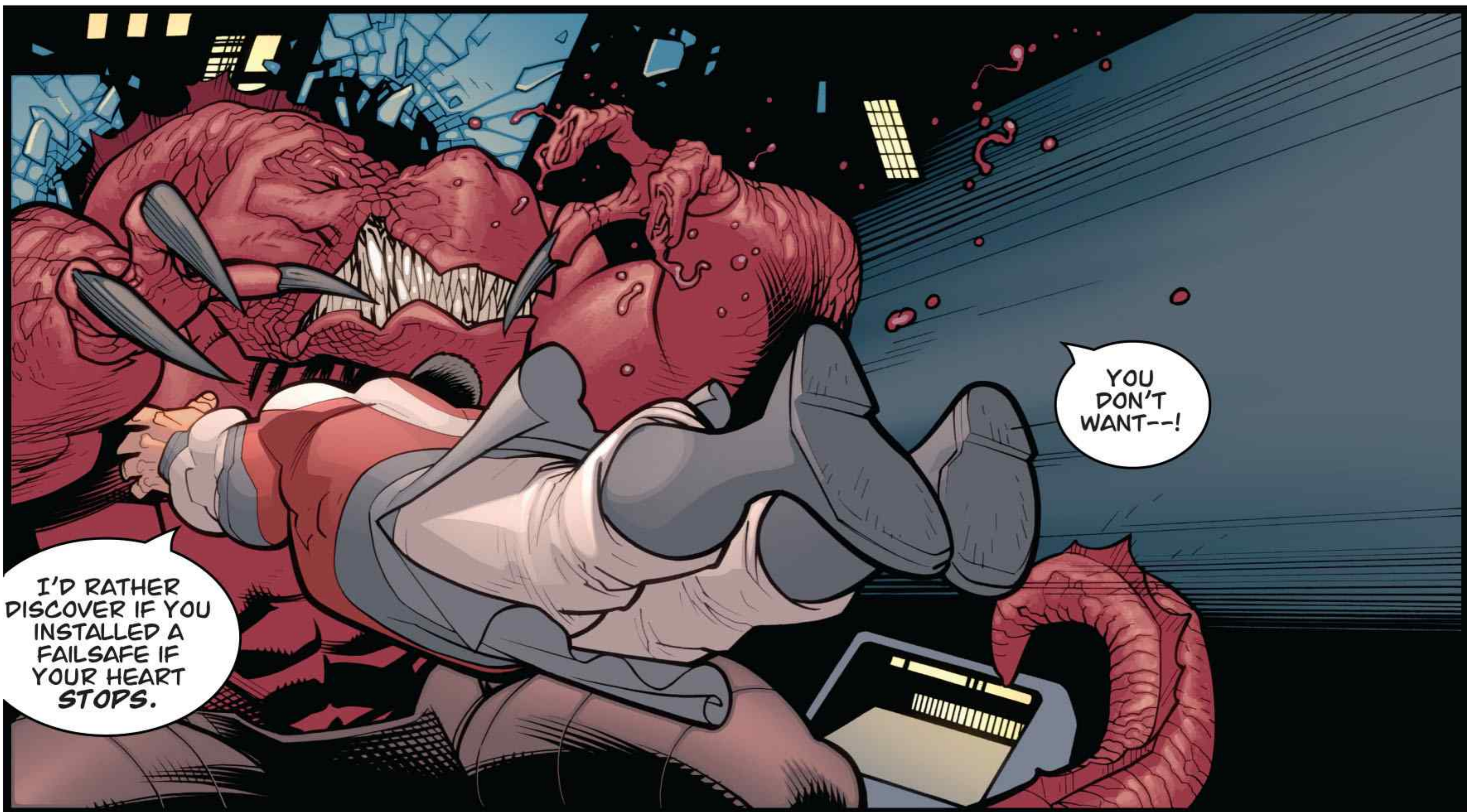
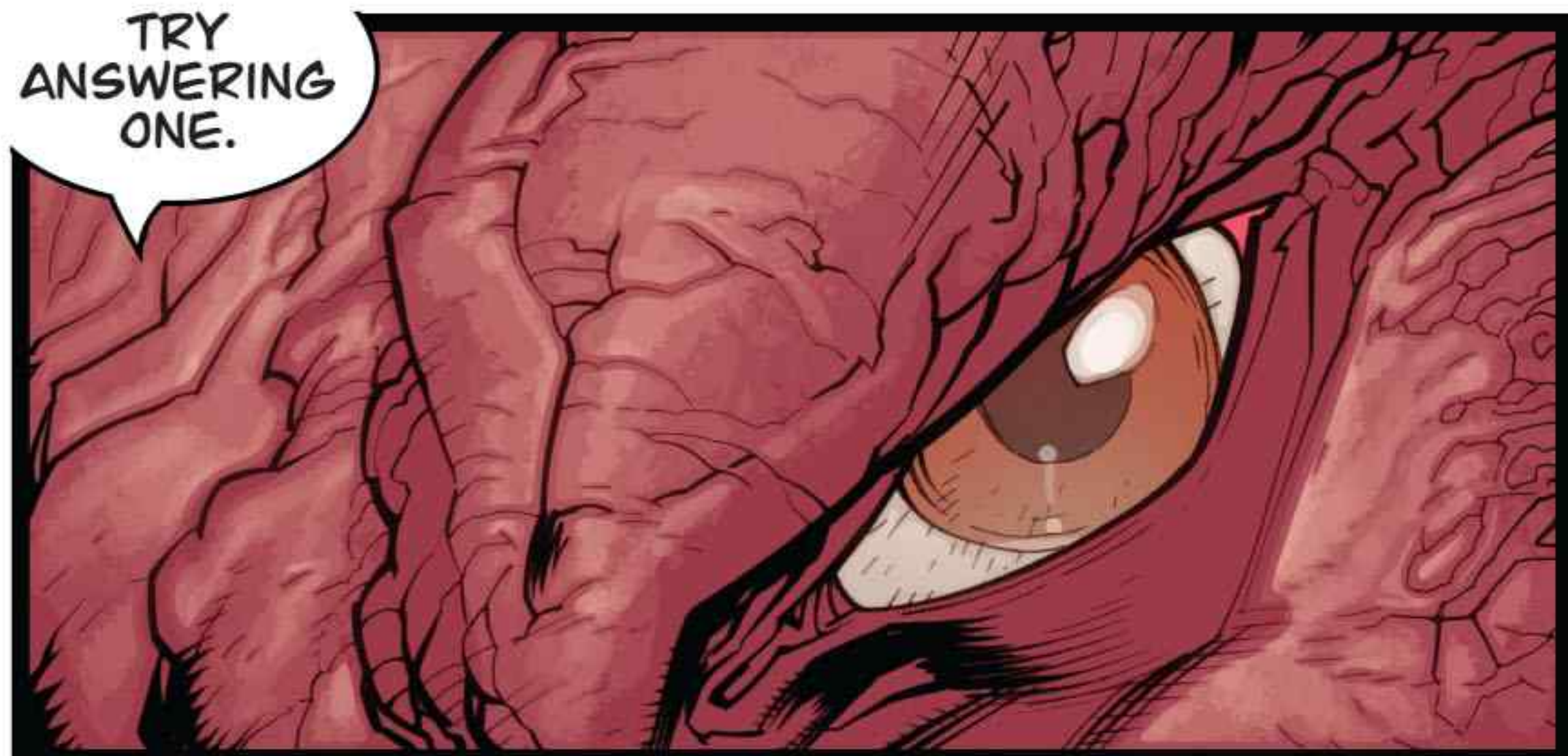
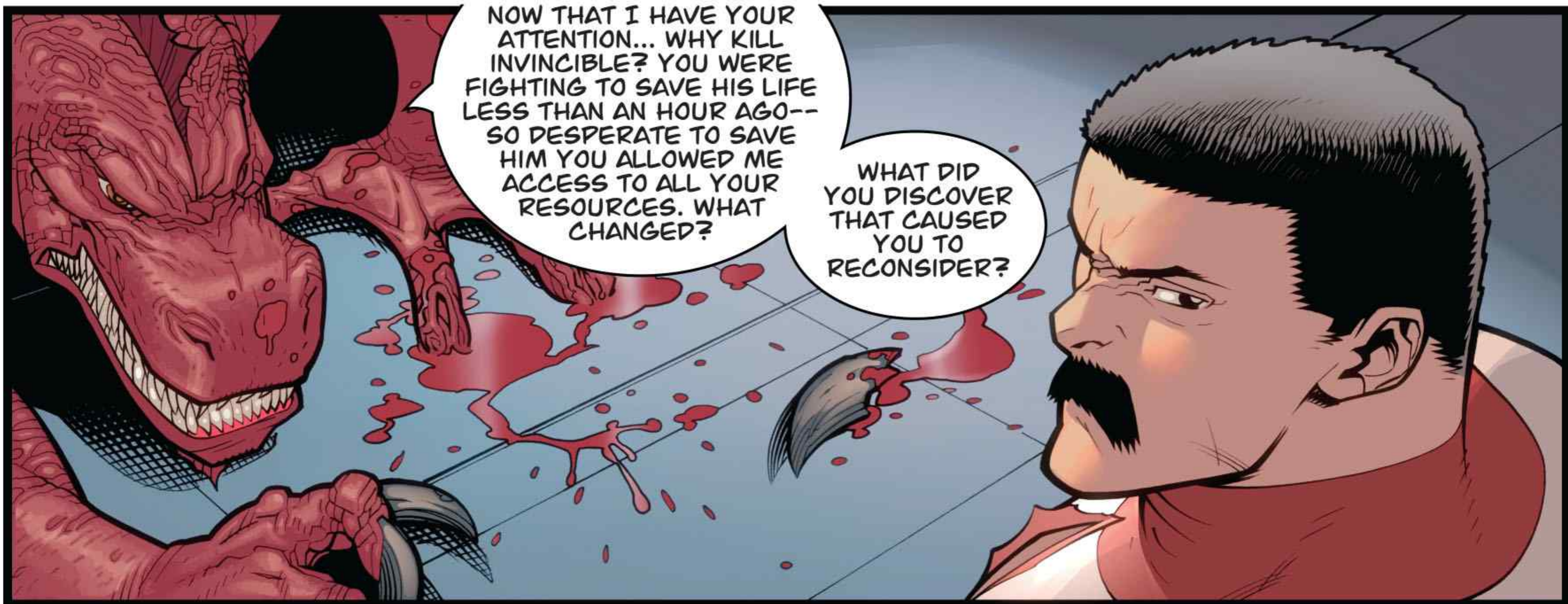
I'VE GOT A SYSTEM MONITORING MY HEART RATE. AS IT RISES, IT WILL SET OFF A SERIES OF EXPLOSIONS INSIDE THIS SHIP...

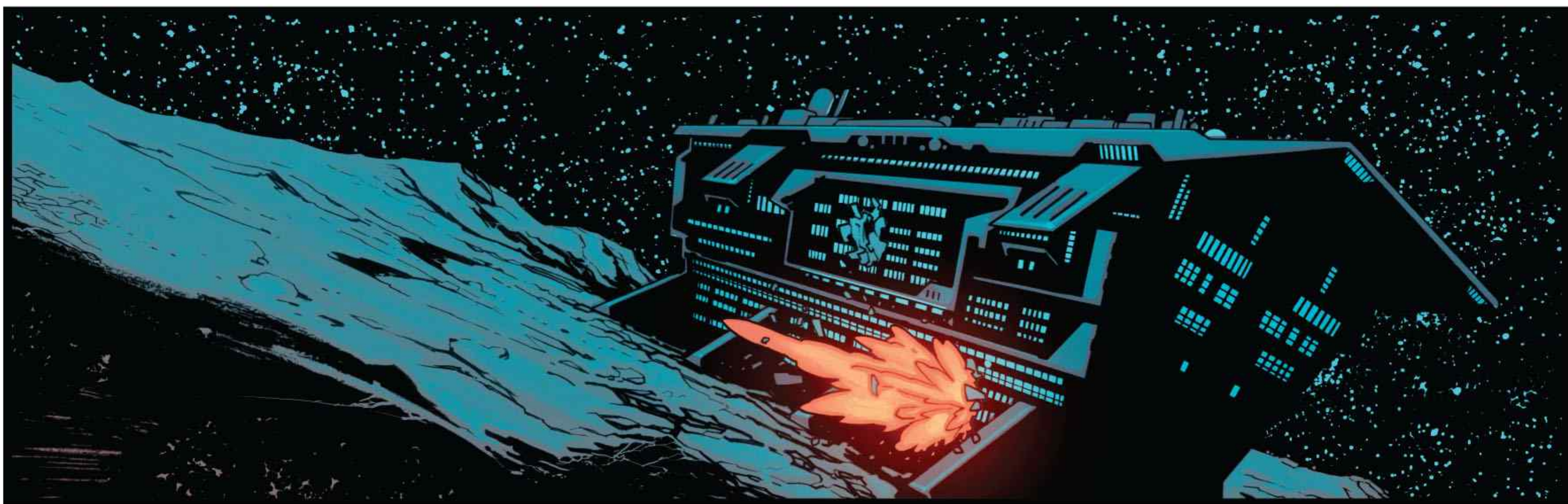
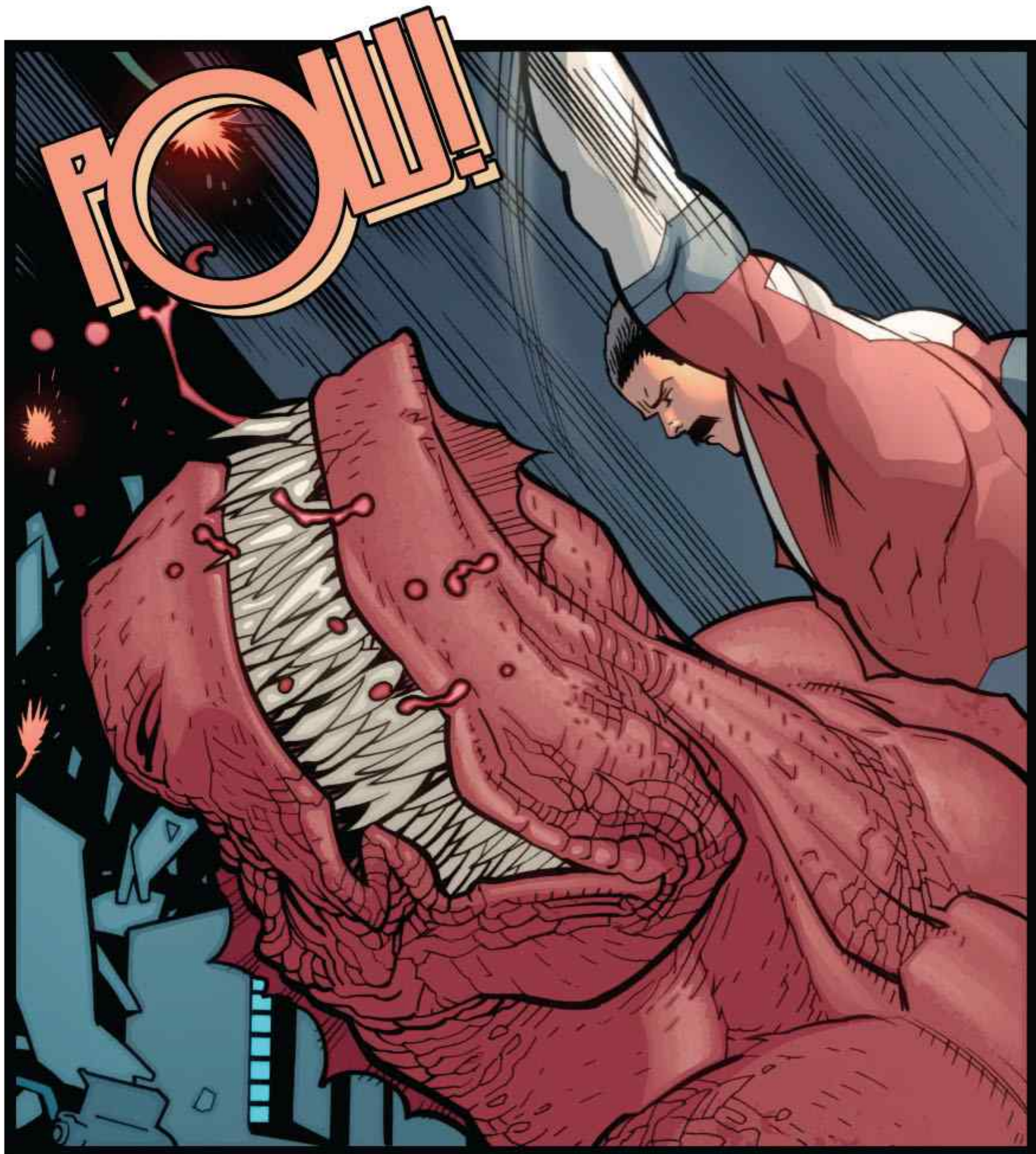


YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE--



NOT AT ALL. IF MY CALCULATIONS ARE CORRECT, ONE SHOULD BE GOING OFF RIGHT... ABOUT...





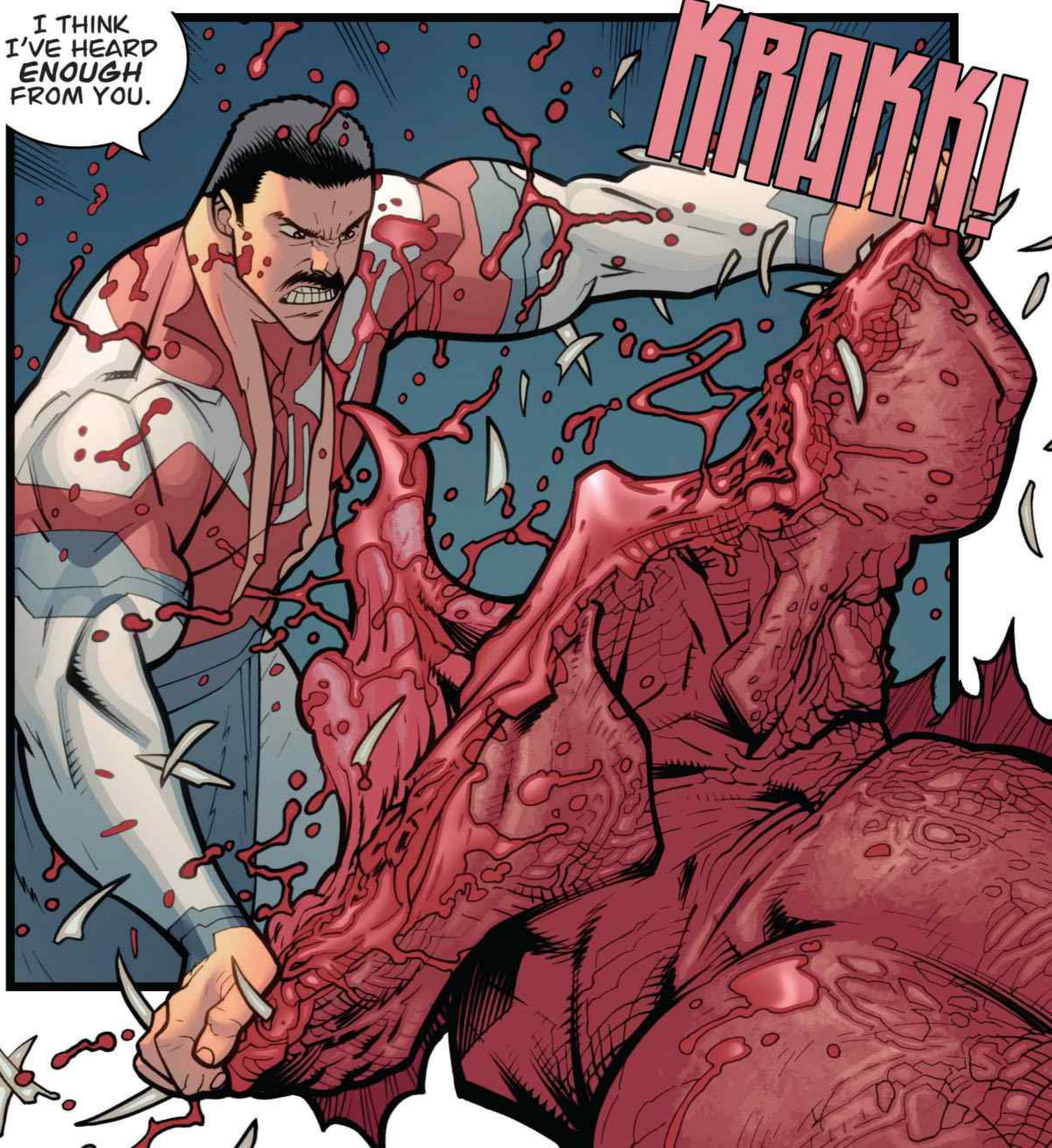


SHKRASH!



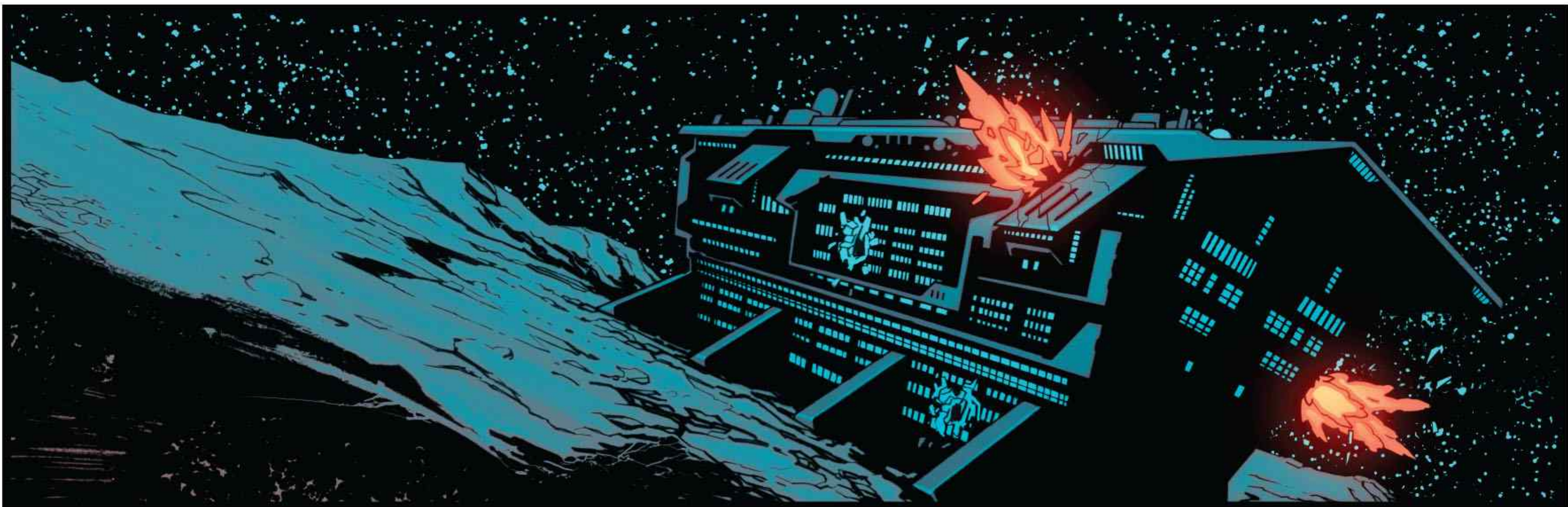
SURELY YOU EXPECTED THAT TO RESULT IN A FAR DIFFERENT OUTCOME.

EXPLOSHUN-- ONLY DA BUGGINING...



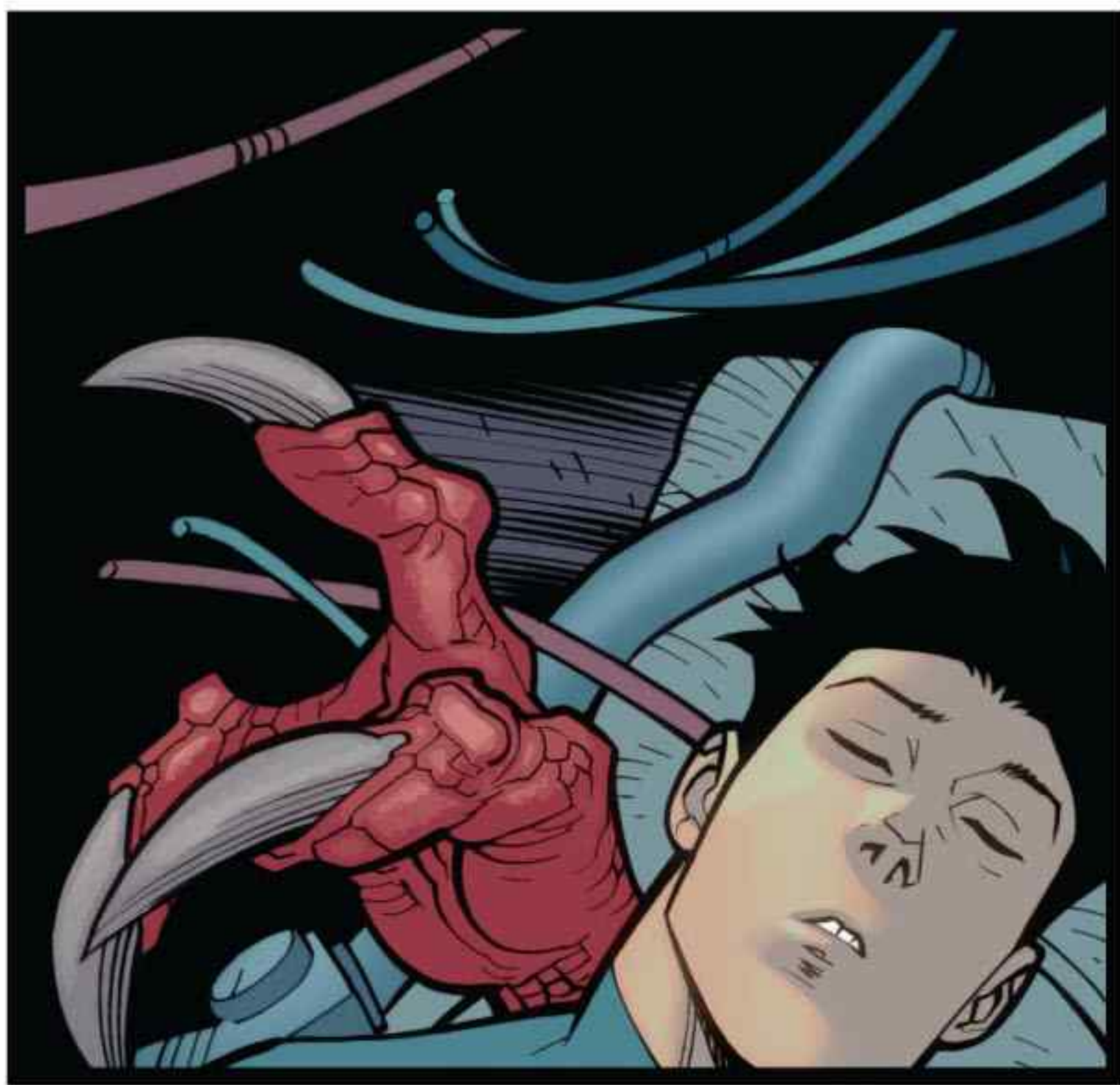
I THINK I'VE HEARD ENOUGH FROM YOU.

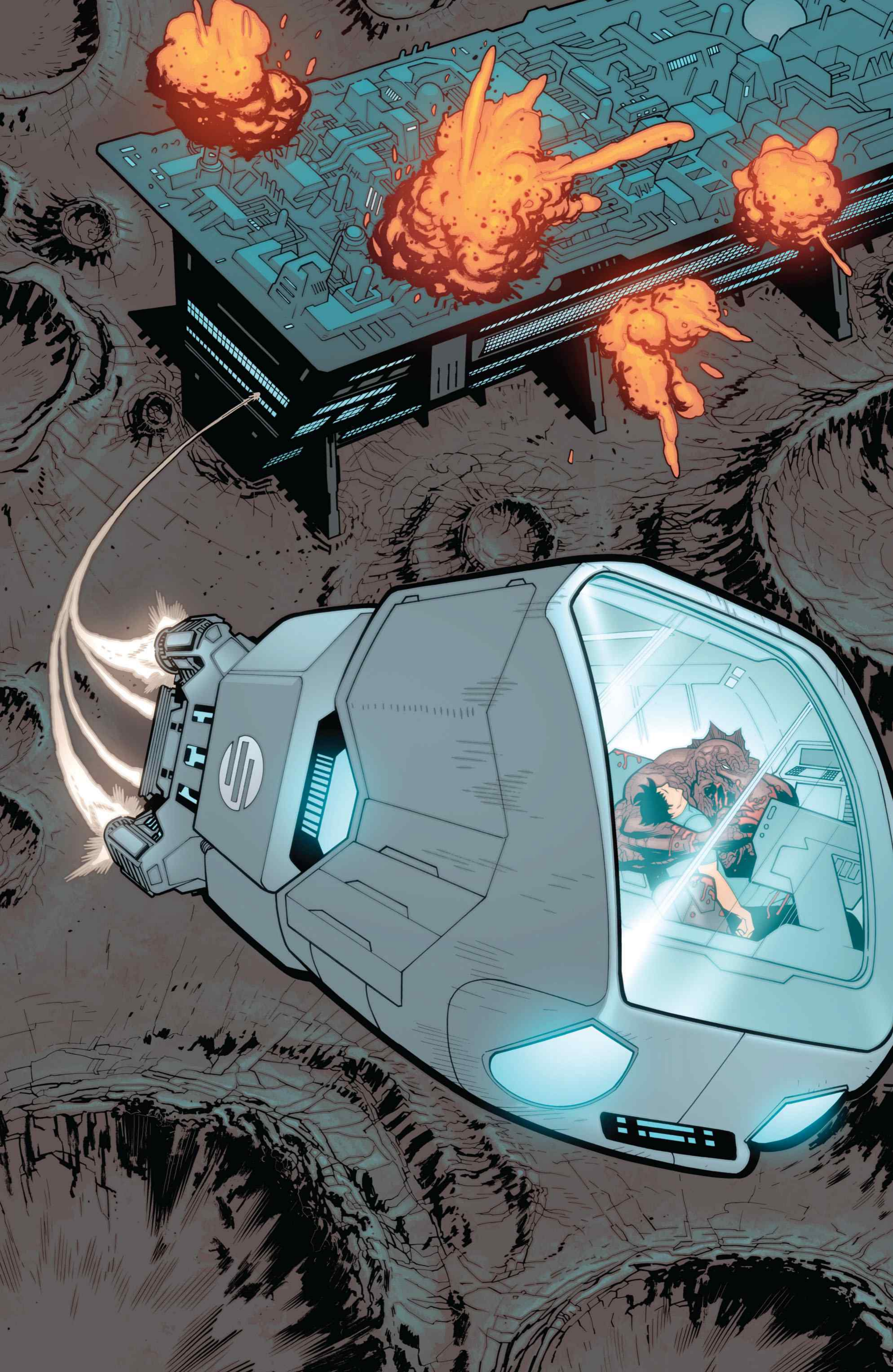
KROKK!



WHILE YOU'RE BUSY BLEEDING, I WILL ATTEND TO THIS. I SEE NOW THAT STOPPING YOUR HEART WOULD ONLY CAUSE MORE DAMAGE.

COLLECT YOURSELF. I'LL RETURN SHORTLY, YOU'LL WISH YOU WERE DEAD SOON ENOUGH.







DEEP BELOW THE PENTAGON,
THE SECRET UNDERGROUND
BASE OF THE GLOBAL DEFENSE
AGENCY, LED BY CECIL STEDMAN.

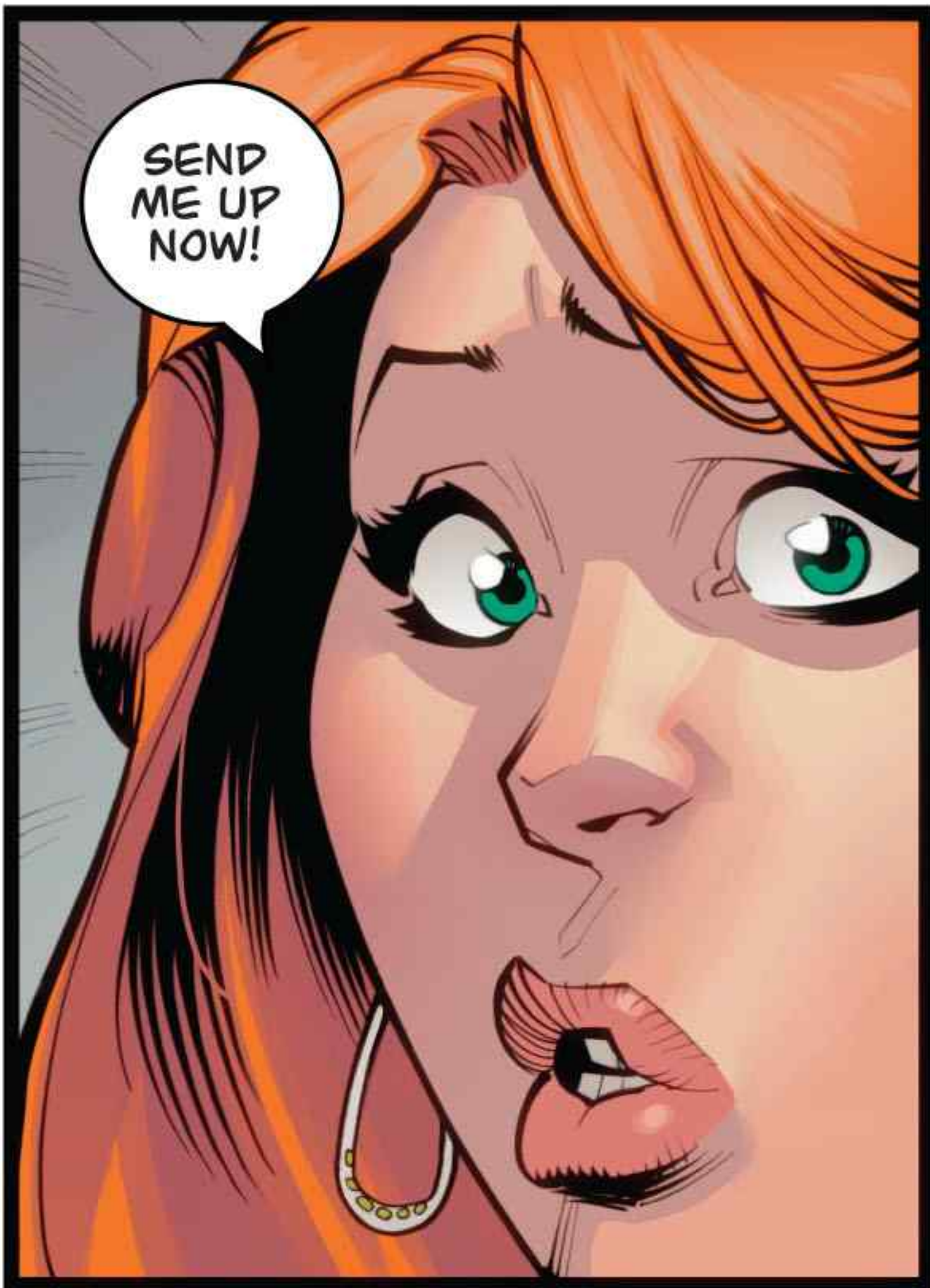


I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
I HEARD THRAGG SAY
WE COULD VISIT ANY
TIME. I KNOW IT'S
BARELY BEEN A DAY,
BUT I'D LIKE TO **SEE**
HIM... I'M SURE YOU
UNDERSTAND.

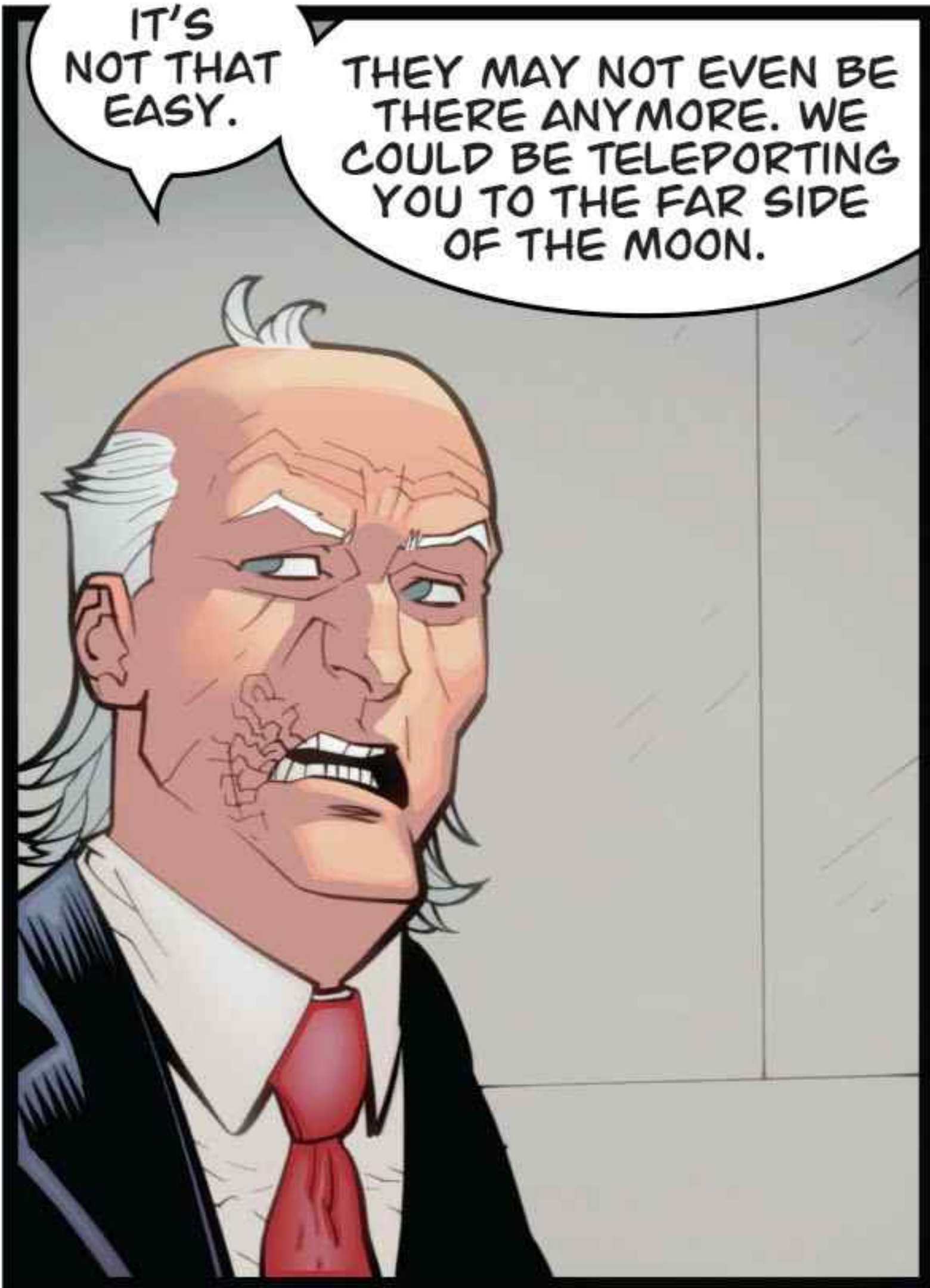
I DO, BUT IT'S NOT
AS SIMPLE AS MAKING
A PHONE CALL. WE'VE
ATTEMPTED TO
CONTACT THEM AND
WE CAN'T SEEM TO
GET THROUGH.

THEIR
COMMUNICATION
IS DOWN.

ANOTHER
CAUSE FOR
CONCERN, THE
GUARDIANS OF THE
GLOBE MOON BASE
IS REPORTING UNUSUAL
SEISMIC ACTIVITY ON
THE MOON THAT IS
ORIGINATING IN THE
REGION OF THE
VILTRUMITE
SHIP.



SEND
ME UP
NOW!



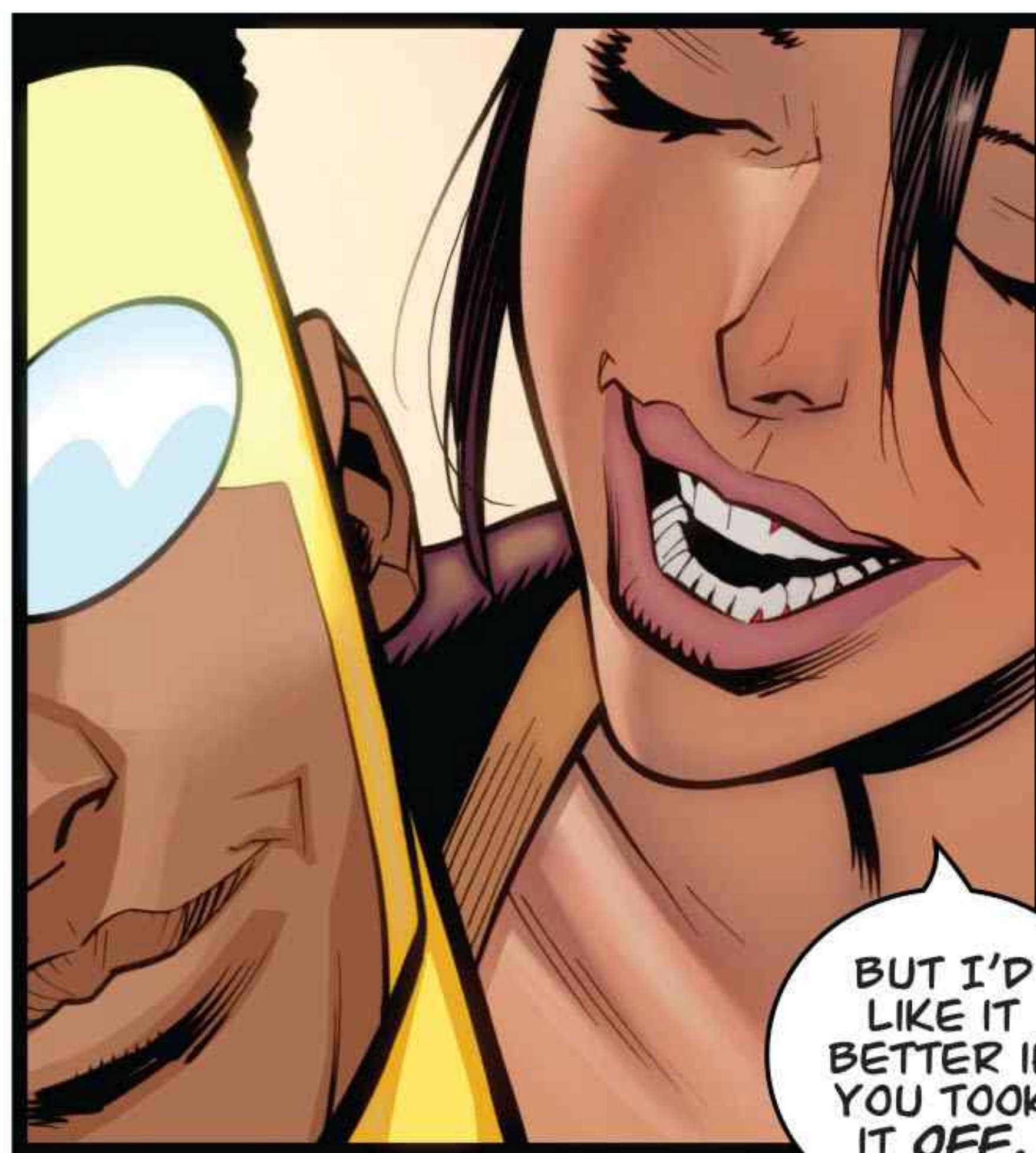
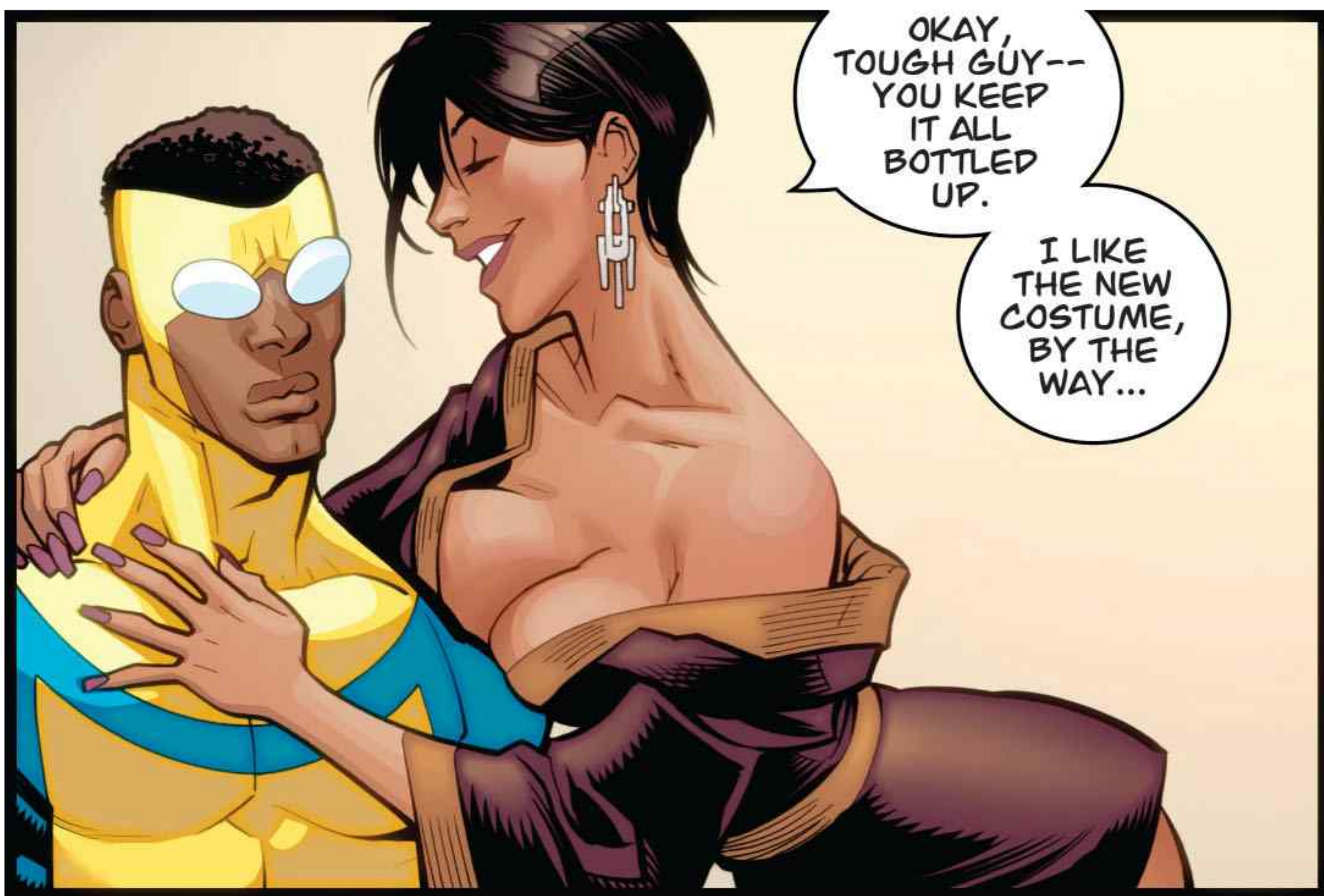
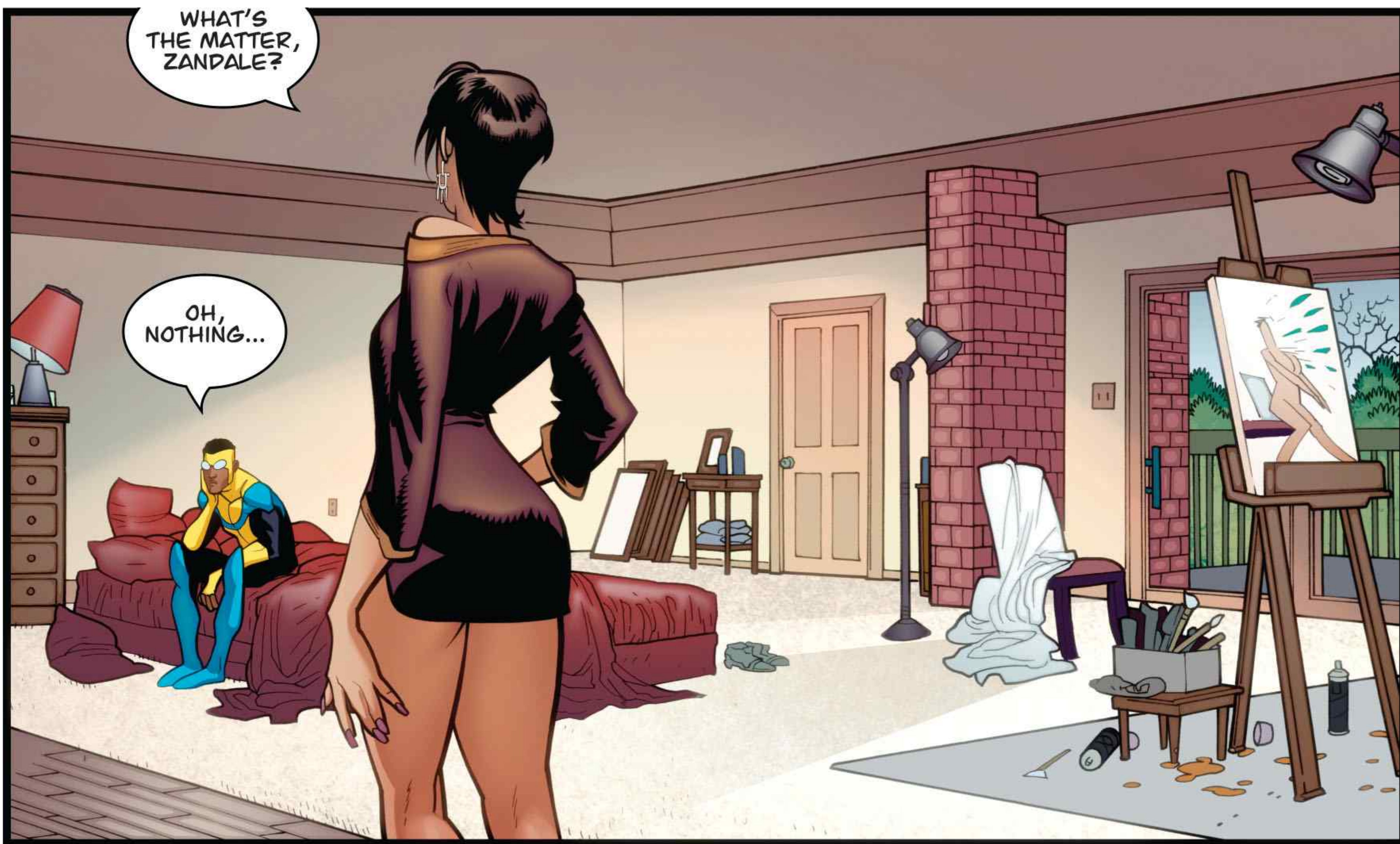
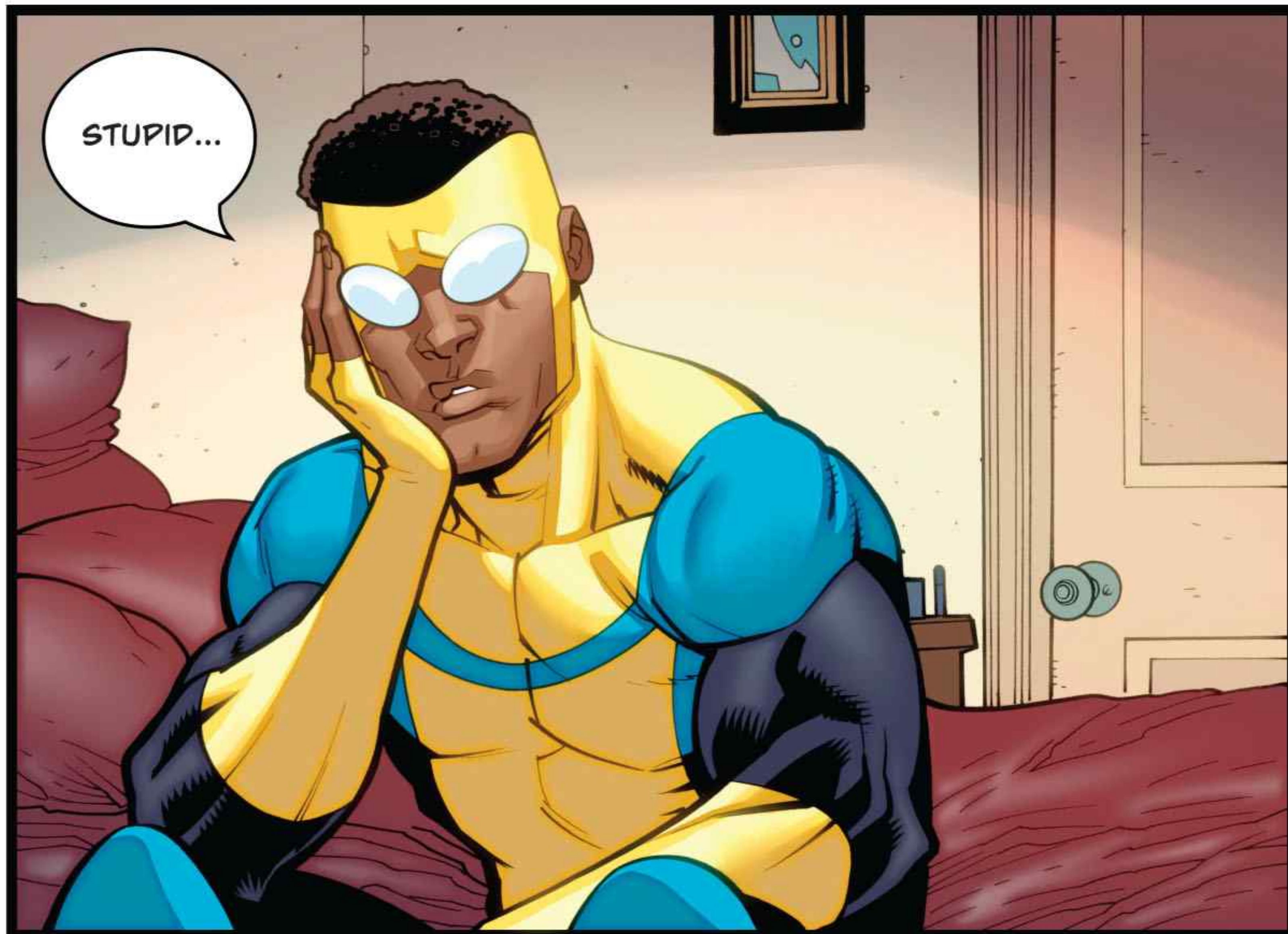
IT'S
NOT THAT
EASY.

THEY MAY NOT EVEN BE
THERE ANYMORE. WE
COULD BE TELEPORTING
YOU TO THE FAR SIDE
OF THE MOON.



SEND ME UP TO THE
GUARDIANS' MOON
BASE--I'LL FLY OVER
FROM THERE.

I NEED TO
KNOW WHAT'S
HAPPENING--
NOW!



UNDISCLOSED LOCATION, THE
SECRET BASE OF DINOSAURUS.





WRITE US @
INVINCIBLE@SKYBOUND.COM

PEN INVINCIBLE PALS

Welcome back, Invincipals.

There are issues of Invincible where Ryan blows me away, and there are issues where Ryan literally leaves me dead and in a gutter I'm so impressed by his artwork. This is one of those issues. I hope you all enjoyed this issue.

Eh... he's OKAY (Just joking, and this is Robert)!

Also: BIG THANKS for making issue 89 a SELL-OUT! Aside from some teasers we threw out almost a year ago, we did not approach the issue with any big gimmicks, but you all caught wind of the bold new direction, and came out to support! If any of you missed it, the second printing should be in stores now. Zandale loves the coverage!

There are plenty of letters asking if Mark is dead (heh heh), and an adorbs letter from a nine-year-old, so... read on!

Mr Kirkman;

While I have not written a letter (or email) to a comic writer/creator since the '80s, I feel this issue (88) of Invincible needs me to do so now.

Please don't kill off Mark. I know, he's a fictitious character; but he's one whose exploits I look forward to reading each month. I'm at the edge of my seat (literally, at my jeweler's bench, covered in metal filings) and up to my mustache with worry, trepidation and anticipation for issue 89, now.

Cheers;
Don Downie
www.Spiralacornjewelry.com
Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

You sound kind of awesome. Are you making Atom Eve-themed earrings? Like, really big Image "I" earrings?

Mark is not dead—today. Thragg's pretty hell-bent on it now, so I can't guarantee what will happen in coming issues.

Also: you kind of sound like a hidden Viltrumite, and this letter is your vested interest in Mark as a potential leader, isn't it?

Sina, are we plugging Blackberry and AT&T in our letters columns now? I thought it was just Brian Bockrath.

Dear Invincible Crew,

Let me start off by saying I LOVE Invincible, I bought the compendium and all the trade paperbacks through the Viltrumite War and have been buying the individual issues since. In the past, anytime someone asked me who my favorite super hero was, I'd always answer Superman and only Superman. He's been my favorite since I was a kid, but now I have to say that Supes has to share that spot with Invincible. That being said after reading issue #88 with the whole scourge virus ending up in Marks face, I was briefly transported back to my childhood when the whole Death of Superman story arc took place, so please dear Mr. Kirkman, for the love of God, don't put me through that with Invincible! I don't think I could handle something like again. Anyways, I had to write in and tell you that you guys all rock at what you do and to keep up the amazing work! Thanks for creating the most top notch material out there!

Sincerely,
Jonathan Coté
Palmdale, Ca

The Death of Invincible? Poly-bagged with glow-in-the-dark covers?

We don't need marketing gimmicks when we stir up the status quo! See my intro for more on that.

EGADS DUDE!

I just read issue 88 for the third time and I'm still loving every panel. The suspense! The tension! So AWESOME! The last couple of issues have really got things topsy-turvy (in a good way). Everybody's being brought to light in a whole new way and it seems like every character could be considered on the right and wrong side of this "Scourge" argument. One the one hand, you've got Mark, Nolan, and Thragg of all people fighting for Earth, with Oliver and Alan fighting for the galaxy. Then you throw in the GOTG (great to see them again)! #@\$% me... I'm stoked for whats to come.

Now, Questions/Comments.

1. Did you plan Alan punching Mark and breaking his googles in issue 87 specifically so we could see his eyes bleeding at the end of 88? If so, awesome.

Yup.

Um... sure...

2. Would Mark be able to read/transmit thoughts to Le Bruiser? Would they be understood or would it just be telepathic barking (in French)?

I would say telepathic barking. Robert?

Barking... but they would be able to understand it... weird, right?

3. Thragg is awesome. I know, I know, he killed and maimed a whole bunch. But he is such an awesome character. So BADASS! What happened to his fur thing he was wearing? That was cool!

It's at the cleaners ...?

That's his kingly, ruling outfit--you're seeing him in his action outfit right now.

4. Why didn't the GOTG stop and try to talk to Mark before just attacking him? It seems like he would have gained a little bit a credibility from ALL he did before going fugitive. They owe it to him. Could have saved some trouble. Im not saying, Im just saying.

There's still a lot of distrust towards Viltrumites after everything Nolan did. It hasn't been THAT long in their universe since Nolan decimated the original Guardians.

5. hrrrm, *cough* *cough* BATTLE BEAST... *cough*

Noted.

6. When are we getting The Elephant's back story?

When things chill out.

Or not.

7. Last but definitely not least, I just want to say how much I LOVE the art in this book. Ryan Ottley and John Rauch floor me every issue. I'm very critical about comic art, and I read a lot of comics. Nothing compares to the eye-exploding greatness of this book.

Good luck with your busy year, I hope you can get every issue out on time. No pressure....but do it.

So long and thanks for all the fish.
Dave Culman

Glad you dig the artwork!

NO! This story is what's most important. Right Ryan? John? Cliff? Oh... I'm on my own... okay then.

Hey-o! First off, thank you. Before I read The Walking Dead, I wasn't interested in comics at all. Now I can't stop reading them, and Invincible has taken over as my favorite series. I recently bought all the Ultimate Collection hard covers to do a re-read, and I have a few questions.

1. About The Immortal. After Omni-Man killed him the first time, he was buried and they had a funeral for him and the rest of the Guardians. But, why? The Mauler Twins (who I miss) knew putting him back together would revive him, and later on it seems like it's always been common knowledge. So why bury him instead of putting his head back on?

Robert?

It wasn't common knowledge. It was something the Mauler's figured out based on them being all smart and stuff. It became common knowledge after everyone saw Immortal after he'd come back to life. I bet they were wondering why he was going around calling himself the Immortal before then, right?

2. About Angstrom Levy. Last time we saw him, some aliens made some demands of him and are forcing him to help them with something. But how can anyone force Angstrom to do anything? After he got his new arm, couldn't he just make a portal and flee to another dimension? By the way, he's by far my favorite villain and I can't wait to see him again.

Robert?

What's going on with Angstrom will all be explained. I swear guys, sometimes I don't mean for a subplot to take... 40 issues to be touched on again. I didn't mean to set up something in issue 65 and then not get back to it until issue (I'm not telling).

3. Did Rampage ever get his suit off? It I remember correctly, Oliver was trying to help him, but they just left him there.

Drat, Robert? This whole letter is for you.

Another subplot we'll be getting back to eventually. The Viltrumite War wrecked everything!

4. What's the story with Le Brusier?

Keep reading to find more about that cute little pup!

5. Is Magmaniac really dead?

That remains to be seen. Seems likely.

Aaaand that's all I got.
-Mike

I can't say about Magmaniac ;)

A lot of these questions about various villains and characters will be answered... it's just hard to get a break from the larger story line with the Viltrumites to get back to the entire bestiary.

Dear Penvincipals,

I just finished reading issue 88 and I am AMAZED by what just happened. I cannot believe Mark got infected with the Scourge virus. In hindsight, I guess I should have seen it coming because it makes perfect sense, but it still took me by surprise in a major way. I don't think any scene in Invincible has caused me to do that much of a double take in forever. Scenes like this are what I love about Invincible though, they really show how devoted you guys are to telling a great story and not letting personal attachment to characters get in the way of what will make for the most compelling series of events. I think it worked even better when I saw the preview image for the next issue with the new Invincible because it really makes me question whether

Mark will survive in the long-run. I really hope he does though :)

Anyway, I just wanted to say how much I love the series and how awesome it is in general. I also love the new colors by John Rauch. The final image in 88, where Mark is just staring at the reader, was so perfect. Mark's eyes were perfect and had a great super subtle hint of the veins appearing. Really he is doing a bang-up job so far and I cannot wait to see what he is capable of in the future.

Finally, I gotta say, keep up the good work. I just recently got two of my friends started on the big hardcover volumes and both of them really love it. Thanks for making the best superhero book in existence.

Dave S.

The best thing about the Scourge Virus is what revelations will be coming from it.

It seems like you all would continue reading even if Mark was no longer part of the book... pretty good to know, right Robert?

VERY good to know...

Dear Robert Kirkman,

I am 9 years old, and I'm in the 4th grade, and I think your comics are awesome. I have read some of a lot of them: Marvel Zombies 1 and 2, Walking Dead volume 1, Marvel Team Up, and my favorite, Invincible. You're my favorite writer, and I have made comic books called Monster Comix, with some of your awesome ideas in Marvel Zombies. I'd be your biggest fan, but my Dad's the reason I even know about Image (ed. note: that makes Dad your biggest fan). I'm the son of Brad Linford, He said he met you at a comic con. I'm Ben Linford.

One question: When did you first want to be a writer?

Robert?

Shortly after I found out you could do it as your job... I was about... 11, maybe younger. I wanted to write and draw comics originally... that didn't work out.

Another question: What ideas do you think a 9 year old should come up with for writing comics?

The ones that come naturally to you! Whatever you think would be AWESOME! Right?

Right. At this stage, I'd say just do stuff, whatever stuff you think is cool. You're in practice mode and you need to practice as much as you can. So whatever interests you, whatever you're excited about, write and then write some more. I recommend Dinosaurs, though...

Last Question:Do you think I should be allowed to read all of Walking Dead and watch the show? (ed. note Dad won't let me)

Sincerely,
Ben Linford

You're far too young to be reading and watching The Walking Dead! Wait until you're ten.

I agree with your dad (sorry). I will go out on a limb as say, MAYBE at age 13 or so you'd be ready... but that's really up to your dad, which is as it should be. By the way, "ed. note" is brilliant. I already see good things from you. KEEP WRITING.

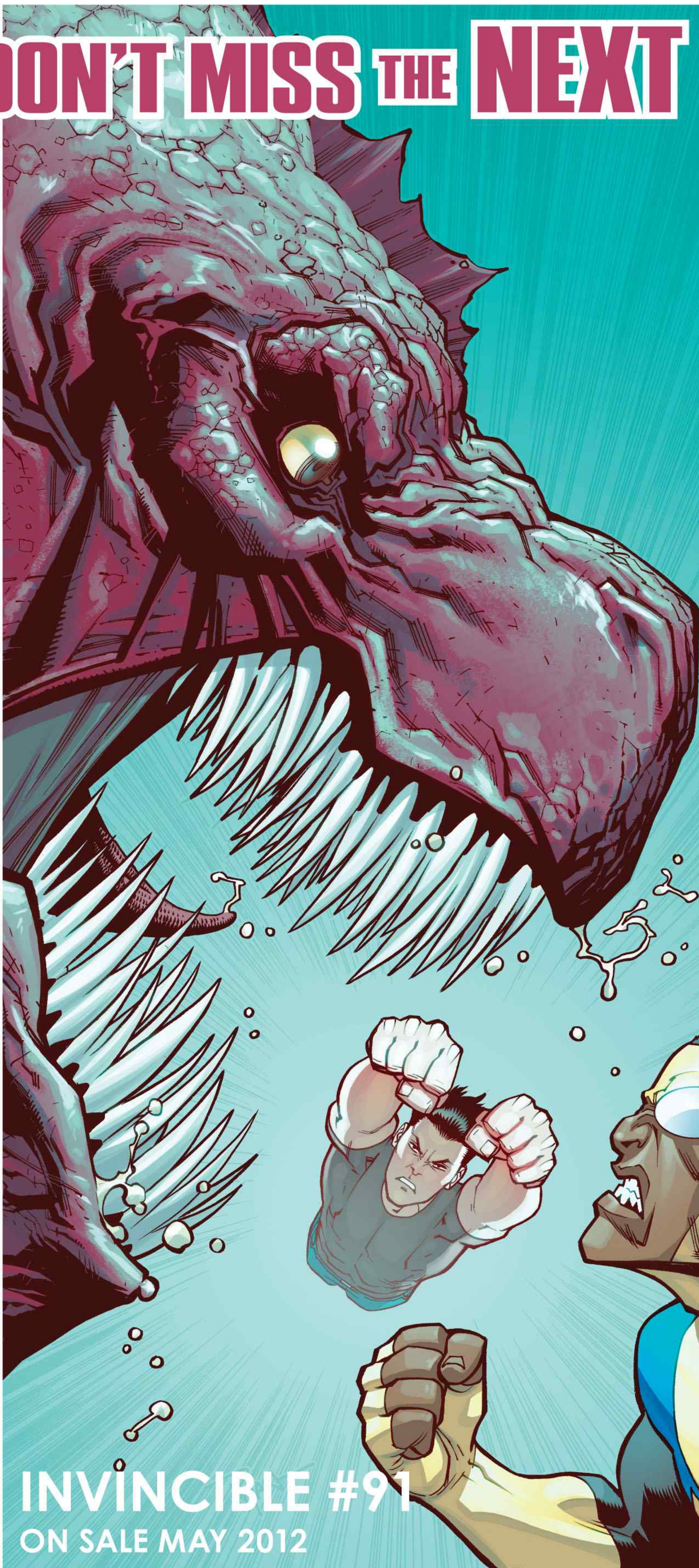
Thanks for joining us this issue. We'll be back in a month with issue 91, more madness, and the month after that we'll have Invincible co-creator Cory Walker sharing art duties with Ryan to tell the story of what really happened in the Flaxan Dimension. Yay!

Best,
Sina Grace

Have we announced that Cory Walker news yet? We really should announce that. It's always great to have Cory back on the book, and like always, his pages on this stuff are AMAZING. There's some cool stuff in store. Be on the lookout.

-Robert Kirkman

DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE!



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image

Question of the Month

"For me, its the Baltimore convention. The best comics conventions always have a good combination of guests, location and low presence of other media. Baltimore has the whole package. I sat there with Richard Starkings in 2009-2010 and I could feel such a genuine feeling of love for comics from everyone there. Other very comics friendly cons similar to this that I've thoroughly enjoyed include Emerald City Con and Heroes Con!"

Andre Szymanowicz
HELL VISION

"WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE COMIC BOOK CONVENTION?"

"Emerald City in Seattle. The con is special for one simple reason: the fans. As comic books are increasingly used to inject vitality into movies and video games, sometimes conventions can feel like comics are off to the wings, but Emerald City puts comic books center stage. The show is electrified with a love of comic books, and fans should make at least one pilgrimage to Emerald City."

Gerry Duggan
THE INFINITE HORIZON

"TCAF, the Toronto Comic Arts Festival in my hometown is a wonderful show that keeps growing every year without losing its intimate creator-centric focus. Independent comic creators, webcomics and comic art are on display and for sale in Canada's largest library during TCAF along with great panels and book premieres all weekend long. The fact that it's free to attend is just icing on the cake."

Jim Zub
SKULLKICKERS

"Emerald City Comic Con. Jim Demonakos has created a popular show centered around creators in a great city with plenty of coffee shops, crepe restaurants and rain! It's an Englishman's paradise. (Well, it's MY paradise!)"

Richard Starkings
ELEPHANTHER

"My favorite convention is Heroes Con because of the sheer number of artists that are there. It's also very laid back and family friendly. Almost like a comic summer camp weekend."

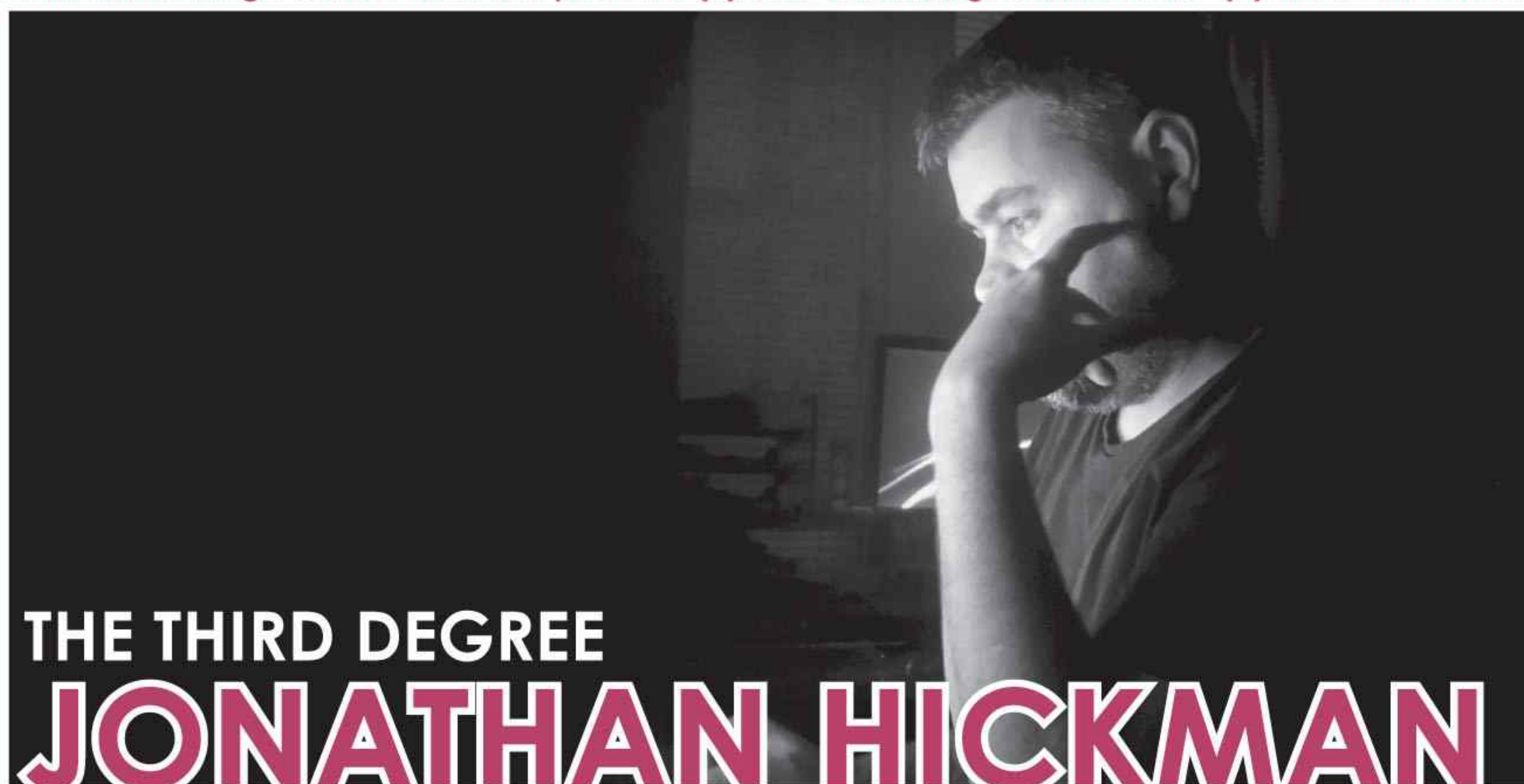
Phil Noto
THE INFINITE HORIZON

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THE THIRD DEGREE JONATHAN HICKMAN

Jonathan Hickman is the award-winning talent behind such works as *The Nightly News*, *Pax Romana*, *Transhuman* and *The Red Wing*. His upcoming books, *The Manhattan Projects* and *Secret*, along with his mainstream titles, *Fantastic Four* and the *Ultimates*, have cemented him as one of the unique voices in the industry.

What are you working on right now?

Today I'm writing *Secret*. The first issue of which happens to be out this month.

What's the best part of your job?

Making things up. Playing pretend... generally being paid to functionally act like a kid.

What's the worst part of your job?

Deadlines, right? It's got to be that -- running out of time, it's the worst.

How did you first discover comics?

Probably the same way the majority of fans my age did. Spinner racks in drug stores and 7-11s.

If you weren't working in comics, what would you be doing?

In the short term, Art directing probably. In the long term, probably killing myself from art directing.

What's the strangest thing a fan has ever said to you?

Oh, I have no idea. I don't take a lot of that seriously. Sure, I believe people are being sincere, but I'm so hard on myself I can't swallow most of it. I'm just glad when I smile, they smile and don't throw shit at me.

What's your favorite part of the comics-creating process?

Breaking the initial story. Figuring out where the story is going.

Who is the biggest influence on your work?

Writing? Frank Herbert. In comics, Grant Morrison or Warren Ellis probably. Art? No idea, that changes monthly, always has.

What is the single work of which you're most proud?

Wrong person to ask. I kind of love and hate each thing both equally and differently.

Own up to one of your guilty pleasures.

Oh, I think I wear it like a badge. Soccer.

What was the last comic book you bought?

I think it was *Fatale* #2, actually. I haven't been to the store in a bit because I've been traveling.

If you could be someone else for a day, who would it be?

Lionel Messi. Forget the day, just for one game.

Pick three things you couldn't live without.

My wife and kids.

What's the strangest thing you have in your house?

My wife and kids.

What is one of your favorite places?

I love the mountains.

What music are you listening to these days?

Usually just alt-rock. I am looking forward to Jack White's new album. Remastered Smiths is pretty amazing.

What is your favorite film of all time?

Probably, Lynch's *Dune*.

Who is your best friend?

Oh that's my wife, again.

What is the worst advice you've ever received?

I'm pretty good at making my own decisions regarding both my personal life and career, so I don't really take a lot of advice in general. The worst thing was probably a business thing that happened 15 years ago -- never get into bed with someone you don't really know.

When was the last time you were truly frightened?

When one of my kids got sick. That's a pretty scary, helpless feeling.

Name someone you really admire and explain why.

I assume you mean in comics, so, Professional/Business related? Bendis. Hands down. I don't think there's anyone in the medium that handles the volume of responsibility and work that guy does. It's stunning. Staggering. Talent-wise? Skottie Young's a beast. A professional cartoonist in the purist sense.

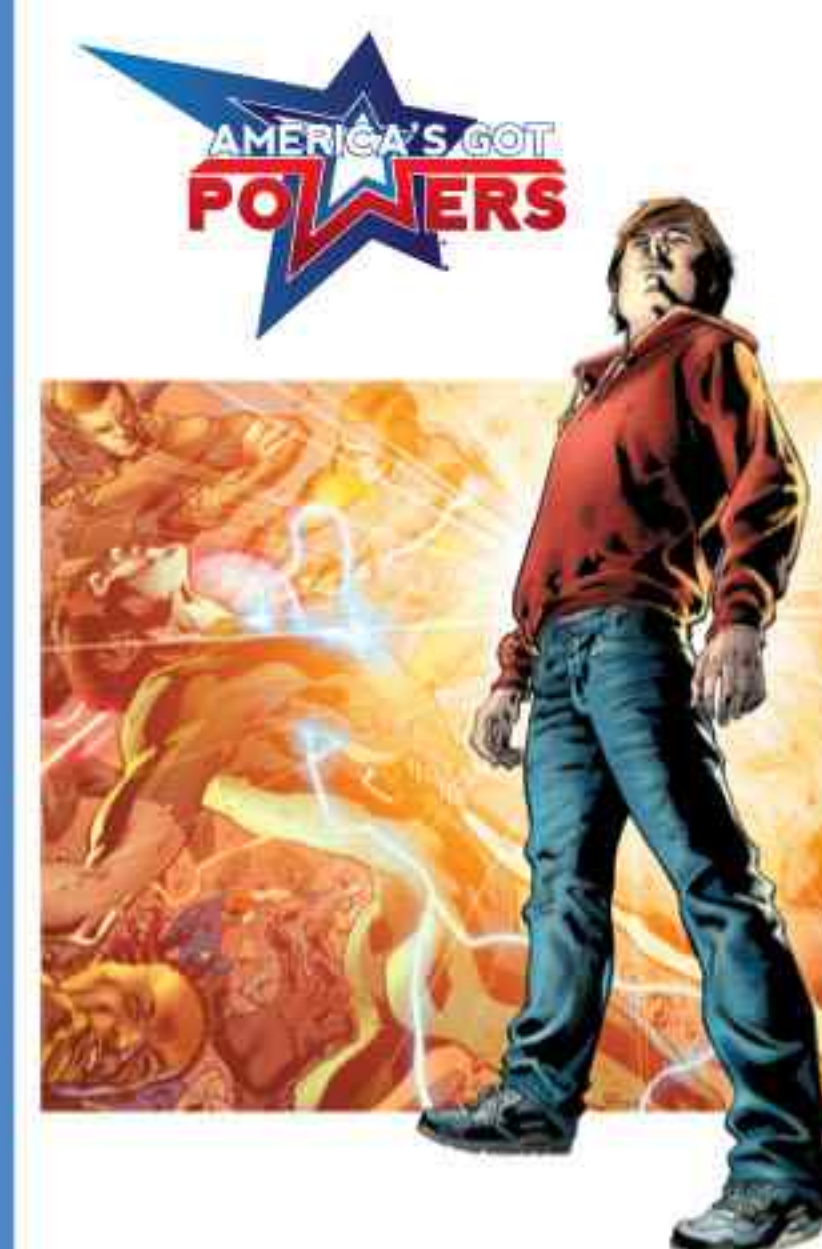
What would you like to see happen in comics in the next 12 months?

I think it would be cool to see Image get to double their percentage of the market. That would be pretty stunning.

What the world needs now is...

More love, less hate.

AMERICA'S GOT POWERS #1 (of 6)



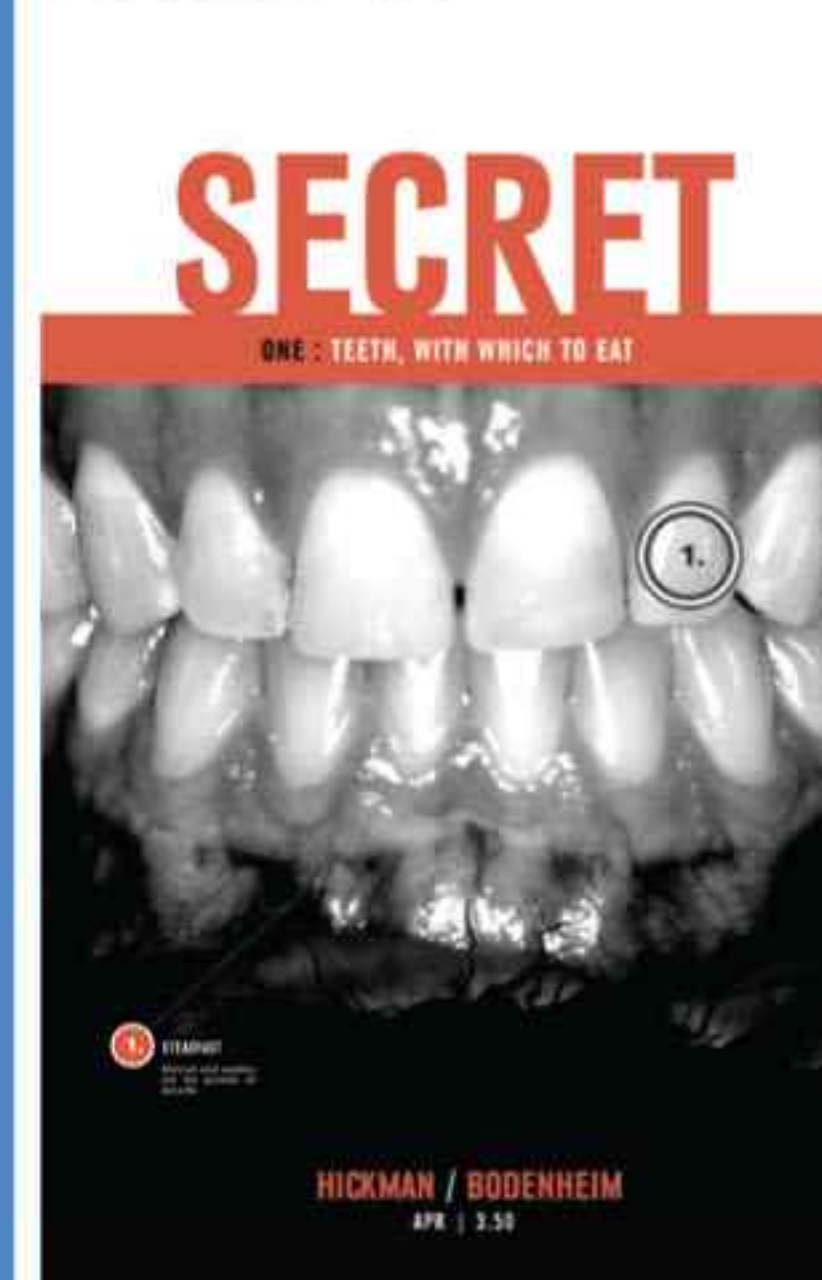
Welcome to AMERICA'S GOT POWERS! It's the biggest TV show on Earth, where the chance to win fame, fortune and get laid are dangled in front of a generation of super-powered teens. All they have to do is WIN. Who is the fastest, the strongest or the greatest? Who survives? Young Tommy Watt's dreams of being the greatest hero of them all might just be shattered when the greatest show on the planet begins to reveal it's dark heart.

DANGER CLUB #1



What if the union of a generation's brightest minds was not a signal for optimism but a warning? The atomic bomb proved its capacity for immense devastation, but what if its creation was just a cover for a series of more unusual programs? A new series by Jonathan Hickman and Nick Pitarra takes a look at one of the most critical periods of the 20th century through a lens both darkened and strange.

SECRET #1



"TEETH, WITH WHICH TO EAT" A man gets shot in London, a law firm gets broken into in Washington, an accountant gives away the password to his computer, and something put to sleep 20 years ago awakens. What is the unsavory relationship all these things share, and how could it bring down two of the largest governments in the history of the world?

SUPREME #63



"REVELATIONS" The legendary Supreme returns! ALAN MOORE's final SUPREME tale is the ultimate jumping on point for new readers! The triumphant return of Image Comics' most powerful hero! As Supreme romances Diana Dane he takes her on a tour of the Citadel Supreme and tells all of his innermost secrets just as Supreme's most hated nemesis, Darius Dax, makes a most unfortunate discovery: the key to defeat his abhorred adversary!



“IF YOU LOVE COMICS, YOU NEVER REFER TO
WEDNESDAY AS ‘HUMP DAY’.”

RYAN BODENHEIM



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